









## Majali briefs Cabinet on talks with Ross, PLO

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday briefed the Council of Ministers on the outcome of talks held with the U.S. Mideast peace coordinator Dennis Ross Monday and efforts to give momentum to the peace process.

Dr. Majali also briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of the Jordanian-Palestinian Higher Committee meeting, which was held in Amman Monday, and expressed his "complete satisfaction" over the agreement reached in these negotiations.

Dr. Majali outlined the work of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee and its initial plans as well as the formation of the six subcommittees to discuss various aspects of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination.

Upon recommendations from Minister of Finance Sami Gannu, the Council of Ministers decided to extend for one more month the deadline for returnees from Kuwait to present documents proving ownership of their vehicles which entered Jordan by September 1992.

The Cabinet approved a former government decision taken in February 1992 imposing a two per cent extra charge on all vehicles whose owners have failed to clear by the end of September 1992.

In this connection, the Cabinet said that the concerned author-



Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali

ities would not allow cars of the 1992 model to be cleared.

The Cabinet decided to allow returnees who had brought their vehicles into the free zones to be cleared through the central Amman customs office. This office can make arrangements for owners of vehicles to pay their dues by instalments.

Also discussed at Tuesday's regular Cabinet meeting were a number of precautionary measures taken in Jordan to provide protection to livestock wealth.

The Council decided to delegate Minister of Youth Abdullah Oweidat to represent Jordan at the opening of the pan-Arab Youth Festival due to open in Beirut on August 10, 1993.

## Vocational training essential to ease joblessness — Fariz

AMMAN (Petra) — The government is giving increasing attention to raising the efficiency and skill of the country's workforce in a bid to ease Jordan's unemployment problem, Minister of Planning Ziyad Fariz said Tuesday.

"The local labour market is increasingly seeking skilled workers in a country whose industry is growing, with more opportunities for young Jordanians to find jobs," said the minister at the opening of a workshop on vocational and technical training in Jordan.

Today's industry deputed on modern technology and the use of computers, something which must motivate local industries to modernise all the time and employ highly skilled people, said the minister.

Dr. Fariz, who deputised at the meeting for his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, expressed appreciation for the Vocational Training Corporation's efforts to provide training for young Jordanians.

The two-day workshop, organised at the Teachers' Club in Amman, was addressed by the head of the National Centre for Educational Research and De-

velopment Victor Billeh, who said that the meeting was "one more link in a long chain of seminars and workshops called for by Prince Hassan to discuss problems facing education and vocational training sectors in Jordan."

The aim of the meeting is to help decision-makers make better planning for the development of human resources, taking into consideration the various developments in industry, said Dr. Billeh.

But, Dr. Billeh said the training of men and women faces a number of difficulties, among which the unwillingness of students to take up vocational training and the lack of a national data base that can provide information about the real needs of the labour market.

The workshop, organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the Minister of Higher Education and the Vocational Training Corporation, is attended by 50 educationists and specialists in vocational training. They will be reviewing a number of working papers related to vocational training and solving its different problems.

## Human rights group urges Kuwait to revoke death sentences, questions fairness of trials

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab Organisation for Human Rights (AOHR) Tuesday called on Kuwait to revoke death sentences passed on Jordanians and Palestinians convicted of collaborating with Iraq, and to permit family members to visit detainees in the emirate.

The organisation said none of the trials held by the military court or the state security court in Kuwait after its liberation from a seven-month Iraqi occupation in February 1991 was fair since the defendants were denied their basic rights.

The group also demanded that Kuwait pay compensation and severance pay to the families of those detained/convicted in the emirate since their families had left without being able to collect anything.

The call, issued at a press conference held by Asma Khader, a prominent lawyer and senior official of the Jordan Chapter of the Cairo-based AOHR, was the latest appeal made to Kuwait amid signs that the emirate intended to carry out death sentences handed down in June to 10 Jordanians of Palestinian origin.

"Defendants were not granted their right to a fair trial and their so-called confessions heard in the state security court were extracted under torture," Ms. Khader claimed during the press conference, which was attended by family members of several Jordanians on death row in Kuwait.

"What does collaboration mean?" she asked. "Can talking to an Iraqi during the occupation be called collaboration?"

The AOHR's call on Kuwait had "no political shade," said Ms. Khader. "Our stand is based on our quest to ensure (that) human rights are respected and everyone, regardless of origin or nationality, is granted his or her right to a fair trial and proper legal counsel."

In addition to not allowing legal access to the detainees and interrogation under torture, the court did not take into consideration "the mitigating circumstances of the defendants" accused of collaborating with Iraq, she said.

"They did not have a choice but to obey the Iraqi army during the occupation. If they had not, then their lives were in danger," Ms. Khader said.

"They were not Kuwaiti citizens and therefore not bound by the code of conduct and resistance to occupation that Kuwait could expect from Kuwaitis," she pointed out.

Immediately after the liberation of the emirate by an American-led military coalition in February 1991, vengeful Kuwaitis went on a rampage against non-Kuwaitis who remained in the country during the Iraqi occupation.

Hundreds were killed and many others detained and tortured by the Kuwaitis who accused them of collaborating with

the Iraqis. Particularly targeted were Jordanians and Palestinians because of what the Kuwaitis saw as their support for Iraq.

Many were put on trial at a martial law court in the first few months after liberation. Twenty-nine Jordanians and Palestinians as well as Iraqis were sentenced to death in June 1991, but the ruling Kuwaiti family, coming under intense international pressure, commuted the sentences to life-terms.

Another 10 Jordanians, accused of belonging to the Baghdad-based Arab Liberation Front (ALF), were sentenced to death on June 12, 1993.

The execution in May of an Iraqi convicted of killing a Kuwaiti border guard during a smuggling attempt and subsequent comments by senior Kuwaiti officials have raised concern that the emirate's authorities intended to carry out the death sentences on the 10.

"We call upon the Kuwaiti parliament, particularly its human rights committee, to uphold the inviolability of human rights and revoke all death sentences and order new trial for all those accused of collaborating with Iraq," Ms. Khader said.

"We also urge Kuwait to permit the families of the detained and convicted to visit the emirate and see their loved ones," she said.

As Ms. Khader spoke, several of the black-clad wives and mothers of those detained in Kuwait sitting around the table

hugged their children and wiped their tears away.

Most of them said they were born in Kuwait and lived there for decades until the Gulf crisis and the subsequent witchhunt that the Kuwaitis mounted against nationals of countries which they saw as having supported Iraq.

The backgrounds of those languishing in Kuwaiti prisons varied; some of them worked in the private sector, some were teachers and others were journalists. At least one of them was a student who happened to be visiting Kuwait when the Iraqis invaded.

In all cases, the families came home with virtually nothing to show for the years of toil in Kuwait.

"None of them got any compensation or severance pay from the employers despite decades of service," said Ms. Khader. "With the head of the family and the actual employee in prison, there was very little anyone could do to help them."

"It is the duty of the Kuwaiti government to ensure that the families get their rights," she said.

Maha, wife of Imadeddin Mohammad Nimer, who is under death sentence, said the family, which lived in Kuwait for decades, left the emirate in October 1991 without Mr. Nimer, who was detained five months earlier and sentenced to death in June. She said the family had no

information on the whereabouts of Mr. Nimer for three months after his arrest. "Eventually we located him when he was admitted to hospital suffering from the effects of severe torture," Maha recalled.

"He was returned to prison a few days later, and it was almost impossible to visit him in jail," she said. During one of the few visits she managed to arrange, Mr. Nimer advised her to "leave Kuwait immediately with the family since it was possible that we would also face his fate," said Maha, mother of two.

All others said they have had similar experiences.

Haya, wife of Akram Damiri, an engineer who turned to selling vegetables to make a living after the Iraqi invasion, said she wanted to stay by her husband's side regardless of whatever happened.

"But he himself advised me against it," said Haya. (And) "I had no choice since all of us were travelling on a single passport and I had to come to Amman along with my children."

Haya, who was born in Kuwait and served as a teacher, said her school refused to pay her any compensation.

Amna Hassan, mother of 19-year-old Iyad, said her son was a student in Kuwait and had no political affiliation. "He was not even 17 when he was arrested," she said. "How can anyone accuse him of collaborating with the Iraqis?"

Hussein Helou and his cousin Muayyed Helou, both 22 now, belonged to a family which lived in Kuwait since 1960, and knew no other country than the emirate.

"It is senseless to accuse them of any crime," said Hussein's father Rashid, who worked for the Kuwaiti Ministry of Finance.

Ms. Khader said the cases of several teenagers tried as collaborators in Kuwait were "another gross violation of the international norms and practices while trying minors."

"They were not treated as minors although they were below 18 when they were arrested," she said.

Also attending Tuesday's press conference was Nida, wife of Abdul Rahman Hussein, who worked for the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Rai' Al Aam until the Iraqi invasion and "was forced" to serve with the Iraqi paper Al Nida during the occupation.

Mr. Hussein, 40, is among the 29 whose death sentences were commuted in 1991.

"My husband was tortured and severely beaten even after the court sentenced him to death in June 1991," claimed Mrs. Hussein, citing an example what she called the vengeful mood of the Kuwaitis in the post-liberation period.

Ms. Khader summed-up: "Unless we apply pressure and keep up our campaign, there is little the Kuwait would do on its own to ensure justice is done."

## Amman mayor resigns

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Ministers Tuesday announced its acceptance of the resignation of Mr. Mohammad Al Bashir, mayor of the Greater Amman Municipality.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times that Mr. Bashir has resigned in order to run for the Parliament in the coming elections.

The Council of Ministers also announced its acceptance of the resignation of Adnan Abdul Halim Abbas, who had served as Ministry of Health secretary general.

Informed sources told the Jordan Times that Dr. Abbas, who had been seconded from the University of Jordan to work for the ministry, is going back to teaching at the uni-



Mohammad Al Bashir

versity.

The sources said that no new appointments were made to fill the vacant posts of Mayor of Amman or the Health Ministry secretary general.

## Newly discovered Roman site hard to restore

By Maha Addasi  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A Roman archaeological site dating back to the first century AD which was recently discovered near the Central Bank in downtown Amman can only be partially uncovered and salvaged; because large parts at it are buried under modern buildings, officials say.

Director General of the Department of Antiquities Safwan Tell said it was impossible to salvage the whole site, which once contained long colonnaded pathways.

"Billions of dollars worth of buildings cover the finding, so I decided to shift what remains of these pavements and stones to the Al Qalaa (citadel) museum, in order to have a presentation of this one 15 metre wide pavement," Dr. Tell said.

Another colonnaded pathway somewhat perpendicular to the newly found one lies buried under the asphalt road leading to Raghdan bridge, he said.

Like most archaeological findings, this one was found by coincidence by construction workers building in the area. "Most of the pavement remains underground, but like Jerash, which has an auditorium, an amphitheatre, a temple and a forum along with walls, gates, the colonnaded pavement comprising the new site completes the 'set' for the Amman finding," Dr. Tell said.

He said funds for the restoration project will be provided by the Department of Antiquities and a grant from the German government.



Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben the 13th Arab Children's Congress (Petra Al Hussein and Princess Rania Monday open photo)

## Arab children visit historical sites

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab Children participating in the 13th Arab Children's Congress Tuesday visited the Martyrs Monument built in memory of Jordanian soldiers who fell martyrs in the Karameh Battle with Israeli forces. The Arab children were briefed on that battle in which heavy losses were inflicted on invading Israeli forces in that area of the Jordan Valley.

The children also visited the Dead Sea in addition to graves of prominent Islamic leaders. They

called at Rabath Castle in Ajloun and at the Al Hussein Youth Camp, where young Jordanians undertake recreational and sports activities.

The Arab children will visit Yarmouk University Wednesday and look into the achievements of that educational institution. They will also visit the university's museums of anthropology, archaeology and natural history.

The visiting Arab children will also attend the inauguration and

some of the activities of the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts due to open Wednesday.

The congress, organised by Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHFF), in cooperation with 12 national organisations, was opened Monday by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Princess Rania.

Fifty children from 10 Arab countries are taking part in the congress, held under the slogan, "Our History and Future."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Regent visits families of victims of accident in Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday visited Al Sharaa family in 'Eera, Al Muhareb family in Jandawel, Al Fayez family in Umm Al Amad and Al Majali family in Karak to condole them over the death of members of their families in last Friday's bus accident in Yemen and to convey to them the condolences of His Majesty King Hussein. Prince Hassan also visited those who were injured in the accident and conveyed to them King Hussein's wishes of speedy recovery. Nine Jordanians were killed, including a senior diplomat, and another nine were injured in the bus crash between Sanaa and Hejjah in Yemen.

### Mayo Clinic team meets U.J. president

AMMAN (Petra) — A medical team from the Mayo Clinic, Minnesota, Tuesday visited the University of Jordan (UJ) and met with its President Fawzi Gharabeh. Dr. Gharabeh briefed the delegation, which is led by Dr. L. W. Smith, on the establishment and development of the university, in addition to its educational philosophy and programmes. The delegation commended the advanced educational level at the university's Faculty of Medicine after being briefed by its Dean Alaa Touqan on its educational programmes and curricula. Dr. Touqan voiced hope that the delegation's visit would be at good chance to start exchanging expertise and experiments in academic and scientific fields between the Faculty of Medicine and the Mayo Clinic.

### Oweidat opens Houran Festival

RAMTHA (Petra) — Deputising for Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Youth Minister Abdullah Oweidat Monday inaugurated at Al Hassan Industrial Estate's theatre near Ramtha the Houran Plains Festival for Culture and Folklore which is organised by Al Ramtha Cultural Forum. The festival included folkloric shows, dances and songs performed by troupes representing Yarmouk University, the city of Ramtha and the Syrian city of De'ra.

By Elia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has decided to allow owners of 50 poultry shops in Zarqa, Russeifa and the outskirts of Amman to reopen after being ordered closed in the past week on condition that they abide by the public safety and health regulations, according to a decision taken Tuesday.

The decision was taken at a meeting held at the Interior Ministry by ministers of municipal and rural affairs and the environment, health, interior and agriculture in addition to Public Security Department (PSD) Director Abdul Rahman Al Udwan and Amman Governor Issa Omari.

Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas told the Jordan Times that a committee representing the poultry shop owners attended the meeting and was told that poultry shop owners could settle their problem with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

The group presented its case to the meeting explaining the difficult circumstances they were facing, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

According to Dr. Malhas, the concerned authorities ordered the 50 shops to close down Saturday because they were lacking proper health conditions and also

because they had had no licences from their municipalities to run their business.

When the 50 shops were closed, it was announced that their owners had violated safety and health regulations.

"The owners used to slaughter and sell the poultry at the shops, causing pollution and posing danger to public health," said Dr. Malhas.

However, he added, the government is now examining the prospect of allowing the opening of more slaughterhouses in the country to cope with the number of birds being produced.

The present facilities can slaughter one million birds annually, but the present average production now stands at seven million birds, Dr. Malhas said.

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## WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

Paintings by Salem Al Dabagh, Himat Ali and Karim Rasan at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)

Art exhibition by 26 Jordanian artists at Eshbeelia Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.

Exhibition of art works by Zuhair Zaqat at Baladna Art Gallery.



KLM, Royal Dutch Airlines, held a reception for the travel industry to celebrate the reintroduction of KLM's own operation to Amman on July 7, 1993 at the Regency Palace Hotel.



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### Vision not beyond realisation

THERE IS no need nor sense in a conflict between Islam and the West. Not even if historically one existed. Fortunately more and more thinkers and politicians in both the Muslim World and the West believe so. Many Muslim thinkers, some assembled in Amman today, advocate fusion between the two civilisations instead of the tension that currently prevails. For this to happen, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan advised yesterday, both should recognise the uniqueness of the other. Both should accept the other. Neither should the Islamic civilisation replace or triumph over the Western civilisation nor the other way around. Muslims and Westerners should accept that the other is not only different but that, essentially, all human beings are equal and have equal, legitimate needs.

Thinkers on both sides of the divide who see the ingredients of large-scale confrontation between the two brewing should spare no effort aimed at defusing the conflict. Whether in Palestine, Bosnia or the North-South divide, grievances must be addressed and peaceful means for resolving them found. The forces of radicalism and fanaticism are growing by the day propelled by injustice, poverty, terror and prejudice. The days of the crusaders, and martyrs should not be allowed to return. The West, the all so-powerful and so-advanced, has all the means to address the injustice felt by Muslims in Palestine, Bosnia and elsewhere in the Muslim World. It has the resources, the political and military power, the ideas and ideals and the technology to make the world a better place for everybody to live in. The Muslims have the zeal for a fresh awakening that would once more ensure them a place among the nations. The intellectual wealth of both civilisations and their fast human, scientific and material resources should, when a fusion takes place, clear the road for a better world for all human beings, free of war and misery, of poverty and ignorance, of intolerance and bigotry.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE CURRENT tour of the Middle East by peace coordinator Dennis Ross could result in the resumption of the Arab-Israeli negotiations, but it is important for the Arabs to demand that such resumption mean no acceptance of continued talks that aim at nothing, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. Holding talks for the sake of talks and negotiations without achieving progress towards a settlement can be dangerous because it fosters despair and resentment, said the paper. The Arab masses, who feel they are defeated and in disarray, are bound to face and show more despair over the lack of progress, especially as Israel continues to defy U.N. resolutions at a time when the world community is doing nothing to stem its aggression and end its occupation of Arab Land, warned the paper. If unjust peace is imposed on the Arabs, through the U.S.-Israeli alliance and through pressure and coercion, hostilities are bound to flare up at any moment in the future, continued the paper. It cited His Majesty King Hussein's repeated words that the Arabs seek peace that can be accepted by the future generations as a clear and loud warning to the two sides not to reach an unjust peace which can only breed hatred and foment hostilities. The paper said that so far the Americans and the Israelis are seeking some kind of peaceful formula to be imposed on the Arabs without achieving a durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It said that the future generations are bound to rise above the present divisions now plaguing their Arab Nation and could muster sufficient might to regain lost territory and usurped rights.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday backed the idea of assigning seats for women in the coming Parliament and attacked those opposing the idea. Fahd Al Fanek said that there should be a quota for women, that this is just and fair and an embodiment of equality in the atmosphere of democracy. Those opposing the idea, said the writer, claim that a quota for women in Parliament would constitute a violation of the Jordanian Constitution, but this document has clearly stated that there should be no discrimination between men and women. It is incumbent on the government to intervene on behalf of the weak and humble and serve justice to all parties, he demanded. The Jordanian Constitution, continued the writer, had earlier created a quota for the Christians and the Circassians because they are a minority and in order to ensure for them the minimum level of representation. This formula has been accepted by the public for decades, added the writer. He said that women could at first be given a quota of five or 10 seats, but women could win more votes, depending on the strength of their political activities, suggested the writer. He said that by introducing the quota system for women, the government would be contributing to the establishment of justice in various sectors of society.

### Economic Forum

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

## Excess liquidity could generate investment, capital formation

I really never understood the wisdom behind whatever measures taken to affect directly the level of activity in Amman Financial Market (AFM), whether these measures tried to boost prices or suppress them. Our stock exchange is a free market where supply and demand forces interplay and determine, in the process, the points of equilibrium which represent fair prices. Certainly, it is the duty of the authorities to eliminate any monopolistic conditions or foul play which impede the free and fair interaction among market forces. But it is not within the domain of a prudent economic policy of an economy based on free markets to go as far as trying to prop up demand or supply in a direct way, such as asking this or that body to buy or sell shares or to build certain equity portfolios.

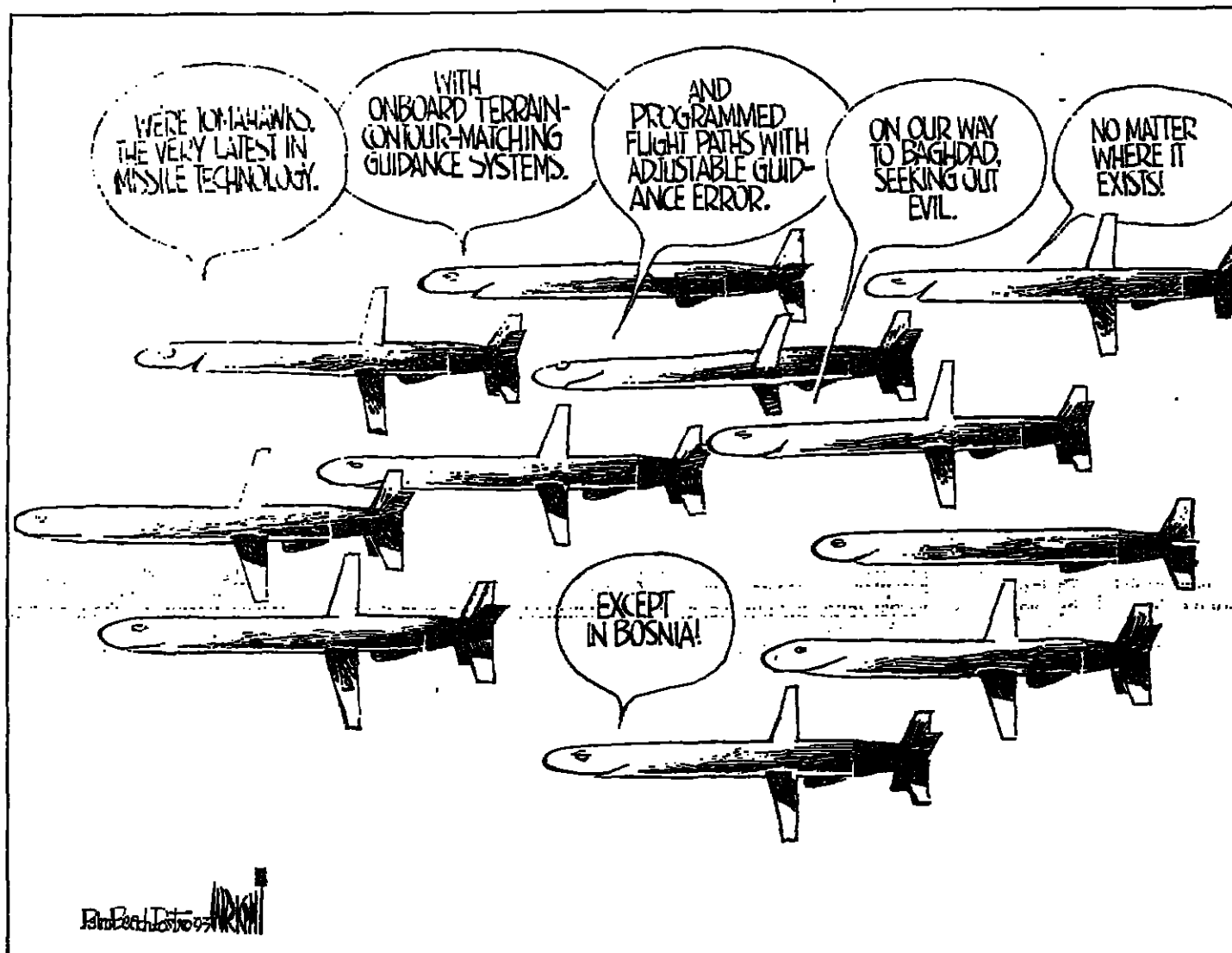
Practitioners and students of economics, alike, know very well that stock prices reflect the level of economic activity. Now any shift in the sentiments of dealers and thereby any consequential gyrations in stock prices are a function of the policy measures taken in the financial, monetary and commercial fields. The sound means to affect the overall level of stock prices is therefore to take the right policy measures.

If the prices of shares and equities go wild, it may be necessary to reinvest and adjust ongoing policies. But if these policies are found to be sound, then the movements of stock prices, in any directions, should not stir the worries of the managers of the national economy. These movements should be left to work themselves out. Otherwise, these managers will be hostages to temperamental markets. But it will certainly be their duty to warn dealers, especially real investors, against buying shares in the turbulent periods. The official advice to dealers in this case is both warranted and valuable and is likely to be heeded by them.

It is well-known that Amman Financial Market (AMF) is particularly shallow and is therefore easily moved by developments and rumours, but particularly by expectations. Contrary to mature or deep markets, it is very hardly affected by, for example, interest rates (on deposits or bonds). Thus what follows is that any price movements triggered by these developments, rumours or expectations are not translated into enduring trends that enable savers and real investors to map out financial plans. Under the circumstances, no economic policy can catch up with the mood of AFM beyond the adoption of ad hoc measures and decisions.

In the present stage, it is our contention that AFM is enjoying, or suffering from, excess liquidity in the economy. Around JD 400 million of this liquidity are chasing few investment opportunities. Occasionally, part of this liquidity pours into AFM and forces prices up. During the last 18 months, a certain part of the excess liquidity was engaged in the property market. Now that slowdown has crept into that market, more liquidity is changing course into AFM and is exercising upward pressure there. If the slowdown in property market changes into recession, as we suspect, such pressure is bound to be renewed every now and then. My impression is that share prices during the next twelve months will fluctuate, up and down, but will stay in the upper brackets.

Excess liquidity travels through the economy and, short of capital flight, can be drained only through economic investments which entail fresh capital formation. Credit ceilings observed under the economic adjustment programme have not helped in ameliorating the excess liquidity "problem", so to speak. The turbulence in AFM will most probably continue during the next twelve months.



'We call for the resumption of all serious and meaningful dialogue that seeks to preserve the rights of men everywhere'

## Crown Prince: Islamic thought is duty-bound to guarantee the prosperity of future generations

Following is His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's address yesterday to the ninth general conference of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (AI Al Bait Foundation)

Praise be to Allah, Lord of the universe, and may His blessing and peace be upon our lord Muhammad, the seal of all the Prophets and Messengers, and his venerable and blessed kindred.

Members of the Academy,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend to you my warmest greetings and a cordial welcome from the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (AI Al Bait Foundation) to this diverse gathering of Muslim scholars from all over the world.

We have always valued pluralism in personal values and judgments, as we have in political, scientific, and sectarian attitudes. Indeed, we have always believed that pluralism provides a platform for the diversity that alone can develop and enrich human life; and an element of natural freedom which allows Muslims to work together, understanding the true substance of our religion and the interests of our Umma. Pluralism becomes a medium for affinity, cohesion, and progress when guided by reason, implemented through dialogue, and promoted to seek the truth. Conversely, plurality can become a channel for discord, mutual hatred, and estrangement when driven by ignorance and fanaticism, and directed towards achieving narrow advantages and ambitions of a particular people or groups.

It is for this reason that our efforts towards Islamic harmony are not limited only to Islamic leaders and heads of states, but extend also to Muslim scholars of various schools of thought and juristic creeds. Although they represent this diversity, these scholars nevertheless share a basic common ground. The successive meetings which we have held for scholars and jurists of the Islamic Umma were organised along this principle. Through such meetings, bridges of trust were established, an atmosphere of understanding prevailed, and deference to the views of other creeds was maintained. We focused on the issues relating to cooperation, Islamic integration, and the meeting of contemporary challenges faced by the Umma. This took place within a framework laying particular emphasis on common grounds among creeds, with a view to promoting concord among all Muslims, thus enabling our jurists, scholars, and thinkers to fulfill their task of bringing the Umma closer together and unifying its ranks.

We must not limit our deliberations and research to Muslims and their situation alone, however important that might be. If our contribution is to be successful at the international level, we need to highlight the attitudes of Islam to humanity as a whole, and to the future of civilisation. This is the issue that will occupy you in

this meeting, and some of our peerless scholars, members of our academy, have presented learned studies and dissertations on this issue.

We have frequently discussed our venerable Islamic Shari'a (law) calling it "tolerant". While I would maintain that it is indeed so, we have to pause to consider its import Islamic tolerance manifests itself within the international perspective of Islam. This is the perspective that encompasses the plurality of religions, races, and languages, ensuring their respective rights and freedoms, with particular reverence for the dignity of the human being. Dealings within Islamic society are carried out on the basis of justice and the maintenance of rights. Dealings outside Islamic society, on the other hand, are effected through covenants and pacts that regulate relations with other peoples. Such dealings have not only become clear examples of the humanity and universality of Islam, but have also become the subject of lengthy studies on Islam's position towards international agreements and what has become to be known as international law.

Such is the tolerance of Islam in its true perspective. In this manner did Islam embrace Man, as a human being, with all his pluralities; and the Holy Koran and the noble Prophetic tradition (Hadith) clearly grant all the rights of man and his fundamental and general freedoms. Any misapplications that have occurred during particular times and circumstances do not, to my

mind, subtract from this achievement.

At the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna last June, I emphasised the fact that any new world order must of necessity be a humanitarian order, both in its aims and its concepts. The human problems that leave their impact on the lives of millions of human beings

**"We have always believed that pluralism provides a platform for the diversity that alone can develop and enrich human life; and an element of natural freedom which allows Muslims to work together, understanding the true substance of our religion and the interests of our Umma. Pluralism becomes a medium for affinity, cohesion, and progress when guided by reason, implemented through dialogue, and promoted to seek the truth."**

are a product of human excesses that violate human rights and a challenge to those who would adhere and maintain them. We

## Peace is not real if it is not based on justice and right

By Rev. Ibrahim Ayad

The writer is president of the Palestine Committee for NGOs. He delivered the following speech at the tenth United Nations North American NGO symposium on the question of Palestine held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York between June 30 - July 2, 1993.

After the end of the cold war as a consequence of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Communist regimes in the Eastern European countries and in other parts of the globe, brought about by different factors and motives, the authors of these changes have been trying to establish a new world order under the pretense of bringing peace, prosperity, and stability to humanity. What in fact this new order brought with it were more troubles, more wars, more deaths and more chaos.

The events occurring now in Africa, in Latin America, in Bosnia, in the countries of the previous Soviet Union and especially in Palestine are a clear indication of the failure of this new world order as the superpowers meaning to solve the international problems are approaching them for egoistic and interested reasons and not on a solid basis built on justice and right, and according to the established international law and legal principles recognised by human civilised society. They pretend to defend human rights while in fact they

crush in many countries these rights. Here applies the famous dictum of Madame De Staël, one of the French Revolution leaders, against who her comrades in the revolution conspired, accusing her of treason and condemning her to be decapitated by guillotine who, on her way to the execution place, passing in front of the Liberty statue, shouted: "Oh liberty, oh liberty, how many crimes are committed in your name!"

Now, in the name of the so-called new world order, crimes are perpetrated in different parts of the world under the pretext of defending human rights. This is done in a selective way; at times, we witness immediate and extremely harsh military intervention, at others, similar, crimes committed against an innocent population, in flagrant violation of the Human Rights Charter and all the international rules and conventions, are condoned by the United Nations under instructions from the United States, the absolute master of this institution, as in the case of the Palestinian population in the occupied territories, who are massacred with the blessing of the United States and the cowardly silence of other states. Even the churches are keeping silent, as well as human rights organisations which rarely issue timid declarations trying to stop this systematic genocide; but Israel is intensify-

ing this offensive of killing, destroying, rendering life impossible, cutting all means of survival, especially in the Gaza Strip, killing without provocation or justification.

It is the case of Samira, 8 years old, from the camp of Rafah, who went to buy bread for her hungry brothers and was shot dead by an Israeli soldier. No voice was raised against this disgusting crime. Out of 100 Palestinian children killed in one month, 35 were under the age of 12.

Recently, Christians and Muslims were told they must have a Zionist permit to pray in the Holy Sepulchre and in Al Aksa Mosque. Thus the holy places are at Israel's mercy. The Israeli authorities partitioned the occupied territories in different zones in order to avoid Jerusalem, the heart of the area; if you have to go from Bethlehem to Ramallah, within a 20-minutes distance, you have to spend more than two hours going through Jericho and Taybeh — it is evident that this prejudices the final solution to the Palestinian-Israeli problem.

The Security Council ordered unanimously the return of the 415 Palestinians deported by Israel eight months ago; but Israel is adamant in its refusal to abide by this decision and the United States not only did nothing to compel Israel to abide by the United Nations resolution, it encouraged Israel to find means to escape the implementation of the resolution.

The negotiations, which have been going on for nearly two years, produced no tangible result owing to the fact that the United States is acting not as an impartial mediator but as a full partner of Israel.

Therefore, dear brothers and sisters of the non-governmental organisation, you have an historical and active role to accomplish. You are and you should be the conscience of your states and peoples, to induce the rules in the right path of justice, to promote awareness in our people's just cause and to mobilise international public opinion for the protection of the Palestinians who are suffering the calvary of occupation. The aim of the Zionists is to compel them to surrender and accept slavery or to leave.

Notwithstanding the fact that the balance of forces is not on our side, I want to assure you that our Palestinian people, in their national dignity and pride, will not accept slavery and humiliation, will not despair, will not surrender and will continue struggling for their freedom and independence. And I want our cousins to understand that occupation, violence and oppression are not the way to real peace and stability because a peace imposed is not real and lasting if it is not based on justice and right. Violence breeds violence and the vicious circle can endure for many decades.

(Continued on page 5)



# Features

## Islam guarantees prosperity for coming generations

(Continued from page 4)

this world to join hands with us with view to scrutinising all the problems in an endeavour to discover their causes and prescribe the due remedies. Silence and indifference render us more adamant on pursuing our cultural enterprise.

We call for the resumption of all serious and meaningful dialogue that seeks to preserve the rights of man everywhere. We start this endeavour with the Muslim on account of the responsibility borne by him towards his own world and the preservation of it. Indeed, we seek a departure from "east is east and west is west and ne'er the twin shall meet..."

"Everyone in a position of responsibility and every guardian, patron, and custodian are hereby requested to bring the twin together. The economic situation in the Muslim World is defective in terms of the distribution of wealth: wide population sectors live in utter poverty, while in certain countries there are vast fortunes owned by governments and private individuals. These fortunes are not invested in a manner profitable to the Islamic communities, but are rather deposited in foreign banks without it accruing the benefits ordained by the Al Mihr in favour of the poor and needy.

While we are on the subject of human rights in general, I would like to urge that particular attention be paid to economic and social rights. These rights guarantee the provision of decent living standards and facilitate the establishment of an integrated and compassionate community. I persistently sense the need for this when confronted with the pervasiveness of hunger, sickness, and ignorance in considerable areas of our Muslim World.

Allow me to be frank with you in saying that we are not giving this issue due attention compared with other Islamic topics. We should, perhaps, consider the importance of Zakat (alms giving) and its role in realising solidarity and mutual compassion in our Islamic communities. Such considerations have prompted me to contact a number of responsible people in the Islamic World with a view to founding an international organisation for Zakat and solidarity. It is intended to become a development, patronage, and relief establishment, undertaking the administration of Zakat in the Islamic World. Most importantly, it will remain distant from ties with political regimes or any narrow, limited ambitions.

Islamic dealings with the human being — regardless of faith, race and language — and the future of civilisation must be mediated through another attribute of our faith, namely, its status as a religion of reason and knowledge. Reason and knowledge, together with tolerance, constitute our most viable approach, one which can make an impact on international cultural discourse, and offers Islamic perspectives on the resolution of Man's contemporary challenges. Such concepts and remedies must be offered in a subjective and scientific manner, free from rhetoric and passion. The areas in which Islam can contribute include pluralism, democracies, minorities, women, youth, childhood, moderation and compromise. All this presupposes more than an understanding on our part of all the issues and problems of the age. It also demands full cognisance of the position of the Umma within international relations, away from narrow concerns, insubstantial issues and superficial remedies.

Muslims in the golden age of Islam understood their faith to be the religion of "reason and knowledge". This was a sound understanding, for the combination of temporal and religious sciences, set in an uninterrupted symmetry, is integral to Islamic culture. Indeed, one of the foremost achievements of the Muslims of that age was their custodianship, refinement and transmission of ancient Greek and Egyptian scientific knowledge that would otherwise have been lost. Islam thus served as a vital link in the chain of human civilisations. And it is on this basis that your academy has come to take a particular interest in all aspects of Islamic civilisation, in the universal sense of the term civilisation: its sciences, its culture and its achievements. This prompted us to found the Al Bait University, a scientific institution open to all Muslims, and one in which temporal and religious sciences are taught.

Without such comprehensive understanding we will be unable to cope with the political, economic, social and ideological changes that can be expected at the end of this century and the beginning of the next.

We hope this conference will motivate Islamic thought to look to the future of generations to come. The guarantee of their prosperity and happiness is a duty which we deeply hold in trust. In the name of Allah I declare your conference open. May He bless both its commencement and conclusion, for only He can grant success and good fortune.

BY Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

Sultana, a hospital interpreter in south London, takes me home to meet her family. The living room is self-consciously nostalgic in the way many immigrant homes are, with oriental carpets and cushions, brass trays and even a hookah in the corner. Her son and husband are playing chess. Mona, her 12-year-old daughter, is watching Neighbours. When the news comes on, the children are sent upstairs. There are the usual protests, to no avail.

Sultana explains, "Mona becomes hysterical when she sees Bosnia. She cries and says she hates whites. I am terrified. I don't want my children to get hatred in their hearts, like the Palestinians and Jews. Mona was born here but in school they call her Ayatollah because she wears a headscarf. Now she thinks they will kill her one day." Sultana feels such desperation about Bosnia that she went on a demonstration for the first time in her life. "I thought only communists did that kind of thing. But I had to do something."

Like Sultana, Muslims throughout the country are feeling terrible anguish over an area few had previously heard of. Dr. Abida Khan, a chemotherapy expert from Bradford, tearfully speaks about her "sisters" in Bosnia.

"I remember, like it was yesterday, scientists flying to the Gulf after the war to rescue birds and make sanctuaries for them. I wish the West had an equal emphasis on the human race."

Bashir Maan, the first Asian to appear in Who's Who — politician, magistrate, author, businessman and member of swanky golf clubs — is just as troubled. "I've lived in Scotland for 40 years — the most integrated Muslim you could find. I have never felt so concerned. This has completely eroded my confidence in Western society."

These are the voices of the Muslim middle classes, those who once felt relatively secure in the West. Today they feel an intense sense of betrayal and dislocation as they watch the Bosnian tragedy unfolding. Their deep demoralisation, all the worse because it comes from a shattered confidence, makes them see things in stark terms. The arms embargo, the peace plans, the international stasis, which they see as finely turned collusion with aggression, all are intended to destroy Muslims, they believe, and if, occasionally, there are

other victims, this is a by-product of the genocidal enterprise. To Mr. Mann this can mean only one thing: "I hate to say it, but my intuition tells me this extermination of the Muslims is because Europe cannot tolerate us on European soil. Those old dormant prejudices have raised their ugly heads."

Dr. Zaki Badawi, principal of the Muslim College in Ealing, west London, a respected academic and a voice of reconciliation during the Salman Rushdie crisis, also sees the resurrection of an ancient hatred. "The West is back to its old tricks and has no qualms about Muslims being massacred. It is partly to the destruction because it is using the blockade to stop the Muslims defending themselves. But, you know, I am surprised. The West should have learnt from the Palestinians that by sacrificing one group, it ends up with a bigger disaster. There is now a tremendous feeling across Europe that Muslim lives are devalued, that to be a Muslim is dangerous, and an apprehension that we will be bounded out of Europe."

The scale and nature of the assault on the Bosnian Muslims, and the sense of kinship that British Muslims feel with the victims, justifies their response. As the world powers push through the latest settlement in Bosnia, history bears out many of their fears.

But the situation is bringing to the surface underlying issues. For years the majority of Muslims have felt misunderstood and demonised in the West, often by popular media images that portray them as terrorists or barbarians oozing out of every pore and, latterly, as religious fanatics.

Then came the eruptions over The Satanic Verses and the fatwa, which confirmed these stereotypes. Extremists certainly exploited the genuine hurt felt by Muslims to gain power, mainly among the deprived sections of the community. Yet even Muslims who disapproved of the book, but did not support the fatwa or take to the streets — people who previously felt accepted — became victims of verbal abuse and physical attack.

The assault on Islam by respectable figures from both the left and the right, and the rise of liberal fundamentalism that proclaimed superiority to all other ways of thinking life, helped to legitimise these assaults. Everyone was expected to declare their allegiance. You were either for

## Muslims in Europe

# Made to feel like trespassers

Rushdie's book or you wanted him dead. The only good Muslim was an utterly westernised and preferably godless one.

For middle-class, bicultural Muslims caught between these imperatives and shocked by the malevolence of mainstream society, the Rushdie affair created a heightened sense of religious identity. Many were forced to take stock says Rashidah Butt, a science teacher, who runs a group in Bradford for educated and articulate Muslim women who now choose to wear the hijab, or headscarf.

"As a child I hated Muslims and Muslim countries. I thought they were backward, fanatic. When I started studying the intellectual tradition of Islam, what it did for women, I began to change and to challenge what was said about us."

The turning point for Rashidah was the Rushdie affair, and the Gulf war intensified her disaffection.

of all that is good about us for that?"

There is also criticism of the in-fighting and oppression within the community and the cowardice, corruption and compliance of the rich Muslim countries which have made Muslims vulnerable. Many influential Muslims are now arguing for unity, self-help and development away from mainstream society. Various aid groups, newspapers and education projects that have sprung up recently show that this is already happening.

But will the developments that come from such disenchantment prove to be counter-productive? Separatism will certainly ghettoise Muslims further and in turn help to justify their continuing maltreatment. Dr. Badawi believes that it also encourages simplistic analysis, and that it is dangerous to fall into that trap.

"We should think clearly what should be the best route. We must organise politically, but within mainstream politics, not isolate ourselves like the Muslim parliament. We should make ourselves understood, increase our influence gently, sensibly, have a sophisticated approach. And Europe must listen for its own sake. But these messages are so difficult today. How can people think rationally when there is such grief?" — The Independent

toise Muslims further and in turn help to justify their continuing maltreatment. Dr. Badawi believes that it also encourages simplistic analysis, and that it is dangerous to fall into that trap.

**"If they can destroy Bosnians, who are white, European and Muslim in name alone, who are completely integrated, what hope is there?"**



Rashidah Butt: As a child I hated Muslims; when I studied Islam's intellectual tradition I began to change

## Computer lets drug researchers walk into a molecule

By Ben Hirschler  
Reuters

LONDON — Scientists are donning "virtual reality" helmets in the latest twist in a worldwide drive to harness powerful modern computers for drug design.

Until now the computer-generated world known as virtual reality (VR) has been a playground for those bored with conventional computer games.

Scientists from Britain's York University and the drug firm Glaxo believe it may also be a valuable way of understanding the structure of molecules involved in disease and discovering drugs to block their action.

Working with the division group, a Bristol-based VR specialist launched on the stock exchange last month, the team has completed a test study. The plan is to put the technique to work in a three-year project starting in August.

"Our pilot study has shown VR can offer advantages," said Dr. Rod Hubbard, reader in chemistry at York University.

"Now we're looking at a fairly major project to develop the software, the techniques and the hardware."

Wearing a headset containing two tiny television screens, giving a three-dimensional effect, researchers have the illusion that they are actually walking around inside a molecule.

As they move, the computer redraws the image, giving a starting sense of solidity. With a special glove they can even reach

out and grab parts of the molecule, twisting and flexing the structure to investigate its make-up.

Dr. Hubbard — who was inspired by pioneering work on VR at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — sees it as a natural successor to the powerful work stations with three-dimensional graphics now used in the drug industry.

"With VR you are actually immersed in the molecule... and if you want to design another small molecule to stop it working that enhanced perception has to help," he said.

Division Marketing Director Pierre Dupont said other drug companies were also in exploratory talks on using VR, reflecting an industry-wide shift in approach to drug discovery.

Most existing drugs were found by "molecular roulette" — the random screening of many thousands of natural and synthetic compounds, a hugely expensive and inefficient process.

Advances in molecular biology and a quantum leap in computing power now offer a potential short-cut.

Today, scientists fighting viral diseases, including AIDS, are trying to home in on a virus's most vulnerable features and design drugs to disarm it.

Several "rational" anti-AIDS drugs are already in trials and on June 3 researchers said they had made a first step towards a cure for influenza using a computer.

A group from Monash University in Victoria, Australia, and Glaxo created a computer model

## Jobless Palestinians give Gaza facelift

By Barry Parker  
Agence France Presse

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip — The piles of rotting rubbish and debris of five years of violent uprising in Gaza are being swept away by an army of jobless Palestinians who are cleaning up the occupied Strip.

Israel's military administration has taken on 15,500 street sweepers, painters and odd-job men in the last month to tackle the mammoth task.

Fifth and stench are no longer synonymous with the strip as small groups of workers cross the city streets pushing brooms and wheelbarrows loaded with shovels.

"We have no choice, this is the only work we can find," said Hamad Fayad, who was among the first day labourers taken on by Gaza City Hall in June.

He earns 25 shekels (\$8.9) for sweeping up from seven a.m. to two p.m., with a half-hour break.

When Israel sealed off Gaza at the end of March after Palestinians murdered 15 Jews, some 40,000 Gazans were thrown out of work as they were no longer

allowed to travel to Israel.

With unemployment estimated as high as 50 per cent, the administration launched the clean-up project and Palestinian political leaders have acquiesced.

Another 2,000 workers have been employed to resurface roads, build three Islamic courts and modernise schools and hospitals for the Strip's 780,000 Palestinians.

"We see this as a public service, but we know the Israelis are making it a political issue. They want us to clean the infitah graffiti off the walls. We have refused," 25-year-old Fayad said. "They want to use this as a way to kill the infitah (uprising). We know what they are doing but we have no choice. This is our city and we are keeping it clean."

"At least it is better for us to clean Gaza than to clean Israel," said a worker at the intersection in Gaza City, fresh paint glimmers on kerbstones and pedestrian crossings under the sweltering midday sun. Pavements once littered with rubble and rubbish are now pristine.

However in the city's dust-blown refugee camps of Jabalia and Shatti little has changed. Open sewers still run through the alleys where Palestinian youths confront Israeli soldiers in the daily violence of resistance to occupation.

"We have 30 million shekels for the clean-up," said an administration spokeswoman. "That will last until the end of July and we are hoping to get more money to carry on. I know they think they are being paid little but in the circumstances it is better to employ more people for less money than a few people for more," she said. "But I don't think we are trying to end the infitah by getting people to clean the streets."

On Al Shouhadah Street in Gaza's well-off Rimal district, five road-sweepers are taking a break under the shade of a tree.

Musa Ali Yakud, 36, was a metal-worker in Tel Aviv bringing home more than 70 shekels a day until the army closed the Strip. He has six children and two

weeks ago applied for one of the road-sweepers jobs advertised by the municipality.

"The 25 shekels a day is not enough but what else can I do," he said.

Amin Samur, 24, went to Moscow to study medicine, lost his scholarship in the Soviet collapse and returned home with a Russian wife and child. He too is sweeping the streets. "I can't find anything else," he said.

Fayez Abu Rahneh, a Gaza lawyer who is close to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, said: "Israel is making propaganda out of cleaning up Gaza."

But he added that the PLO were not against the operation. "It's a job for the municipality and there are no political connections."

Kamal Wehaidy, general director of works and transport, is running the clean-up project for Gaza City Hall, under orders from the Israelis.

## Jordan's trade deficit widens

(Continued from page 1)

Imports exceeded the IMF target by JD 636.6 million (\$925 million). Exports plus re-exports were close to the ceiling of JD 832.8 million (\$1.21 billion).

The Central Bank said the increase in imports was mainly from capital goods and raw materials — a total of JD 1.29 billion (\$1.88 billion) — reflecting the widening of Jordan's production base due to increased industrial investment.

Capital goods worth JD 510 million (\$741 million) — an increase of 75 per cent — and raw materials worth JD 789 million (\$1.15 billion) were imported in 1992.

Jordan imported JD 900.5 million (\$1.31 billion) of consumer goods, mostly durables, in a burst of spending to compensate for unsatisfied demand after a period of austerity following the 1988 dinar devaluation crisis.

**JORDAN VALLEY ARABIAN STUD**

The JVAS announces an exhibition of horses and equipment to be held on July 16 Friday at 3.00 p.m., the show will stay until 8.00 p.m.

The exhibition includes registered horses (WAHO), jumping, local horses as well as ponies and cross country and horses from the Syrian peninsula known for the height and stamina.

The equipment includes foreign saddles such as, Stubben, Siegfried, multi purpose, military, and American saddles. Hats, breeches, jackets, boots, spurs and items related to horses.

A free demonstration will be held to show the proper way to saddle horses and the proper items to be put on the head such as bridles, snaffles and others, and an explanation of the dangers which might face the rider.

The JVAS is not a night club or a restaurant, the JVAS is a specialized establishment to teach the interested in horses the proper way to ride.

The JVAS teaches those who want serious riding, cross country, and jumping. Members and those who are interested are welcome to join and are expected to abide by the rules and regulations of the school.

Horses and equipment are for sale to those interested in buying good horses and proper equipment and to keep them at the stud if they want. Cross country riding can be arranged for groups who are serious and come on time.

Entrance is free for the public.

For more information call 829882

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## Khmer Rouge offered government role, proposes joining army

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan proposed Tuesday that his guerrilla force merge with Cambodia's new united armed forces and said his faction would happily accept a role in the coalition government.

"We have proposed to establish a quadripartite army so as to avoid clashes and confrontation in the military field," Mr. Khieu Samphan said.

He said the offer was made during an audience with the Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk "in the spirit of national reconciliation and in response to an appeal from His Royal Highness."

Mr. Khieu Samphan also said the Khmer Rouge would participate "with pleasure" in the new government.

Prince Sihanouk recently offered the recalcitrant faction a government role, a FUNCINPEC official said.

The Khmer Rouge nominal leader told reporters that Prince Ranariddh said his father suggested giving the faction some ministerial posts.

"If such is the case we would accept with pleasure in the spirit of national reconciliation. But for our part we demand no ministerial posts, only the role of councillor," Mr. Khieu Samphan said.

But the FUNCINPEC official dismissed the idea that the

Khmer Rouge's ambitions ran only as far as an advisory role.

"For the time being they say they want an advisory role but they want very much to join the army and government," he said.

The military wings of the three main parties in the new government, FUNCINPEC, the smaller Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party and the former Phnom Penh regime, agreed recently to merge their forces into a new united army.

But the FUNCINPEC official cautioned against premature optimism.

"We have to set some conditions to test their sincerity. If they are sincere, first they should give back Preah Vihear Temple, stop all military activity and open up their zones," he said.

Mr. Khieu Samphan refused to say whether the Khmer Rouge would hand back the 1,000-year-old temple, which it seized on July 7 in a pre-dawn raid.

Speaking to the press after meeting with the deputy head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission Behrooz Sadry and the Q.N. force commander Lieutenant-General John Sanderson, Mr. Khieu Samphan refused to say when the Khmer Rouge would join the Cambodian Armed Forces.

Both U.N. officials were cautious about labelling the Khmer

Rouge leader's proposal a prelude to peace.

"We must keep our hopes high that it is a solution. It's at least the beginning of a dialogue that may lead to a final solution," Mr. Sadry said.

Gen. Sanderson was also hesitant to predict any immediate ease of tension on the battlefield.

"Our position is one of brokers trying to open up a dialogue on behalf of the Cambodian factions. But they have to decide the modalities of this (proposal). They have to decide it at the political level. Then they have to decide it at the military level," he said.

Prince Sihanouk's decision to offer the Khmer Rouge a role in the government came as a surprise as the prince issued a statement last week saying that not a single member of the faction would either participate in the government or work as an advisor to it.

The United States has stated that Khmer Rouge inclusion could be a barrier to aid for the country's cash strapped government.

Mr. Sadry did not wish to comment on whether aid could now be jeopardised.

"It's too premature to talk in terms of their involvement in any kind of government. I think we are just talking now of the beginning of discussions," he said.

The peacekeepers said their concern was how to maintain the current dialogue during the absence of both Khieu Samphan and Prince Sihanouk.

Khieu Samphan fled to Bangkok Tuesday afternoon and the prince was scheduled to leave for North Korea on July 15 and was not expected back until early September.

But Khmer Rouge spokesman Mak Ben and former ambassador to China Chan Youran, who flew into the capital with Mr. Khieu Samphan, will remain here along with two other advisors, Mr. Sadry said.

Mr. Khieu Samphan did not say when he would return.

"But he said he hoped to see me very soon," Mr. Sadry said. Meanwhile Prince Ranariddh met with fellow co-president of the coalition government Hun Sen to discuss the negotiations with the Khmer Rouge, a FUNCINPEC official said.

The official said he did not think that the Phnom Penh party would raise major objections to the inclusion of their arch foe in the new government.

"The Paris agreement includes all four factions so we have to discuss (the Khmer Rouge's) role," he said, referring to the 1991 peace accord that brought a formal end to Cambodia's civil war.

## Gore vows quick aid for U.S. flood victims

ST. LOUIS, Missouri (Agencies) — The raging Mississippi River began battering an area south of St. Louis after causing widespread devastation in the Midwest, destroying crops and homes and leaving 300,000 people without safe drinking water.

Vice President Al Gore, on a tour of the flood-ravaged river basin, vowed to expedite federal aid to victims.

"It's the worst flooding I've ever seen," Mr. Gore said in St. Louis. Earlier in the day, he told homeowners in Illinois that federal relief could arrive by the following day.

Thousands were forced to evacuate their homes in Des Moines, Iowa because of flooding and the city's water system was tainted by flood water.

Officials said the city could be without potable drinking water for up to a month.

Residents carrying plastic jugs lined up for their five-gallon (19-litre) rations of drinking water in the flood-stricken Des Moines area, and hundreds of midwesterners were inoculated against water-borne diseases.

The rain-swollen Mississippi River and its tributaries continued to swallow up land Tuesday in the upper Midwest as residents and National Guardsmen piled sandbags to try to save homes and businesses.

Damage across the region will far exceed the \$1.2 billion in aid

announced by President Bill Clinton last week. Gov. Terry Branstad said he would ask the government to declare all of Iowa a disaster area.

The flooding has caused at least 19 deaths, 13 in Missouri. The Red Cross said more than 7,600 homes were damaged or destroyed in Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Illinois.

No looting has been reported, but some residents still feared losing their belongings. In West Alton, Mo., Michael Payeur refused to leave his waterlogged home and relied on supplies brought to him by boat by his daughter.

"There's looting out here," he said. "They can get in and out."

Water patrolman Don Carnahan navigated the West Alton area with care. "You got to watch the road signs," he said. "They'll sure cut a hole in the boat."

Mr. Gore visited Lemay, Mo., and Grafton, Ill., Monday. The water was so high he had to duck when his boat passed under power lines. He also took a helicopter tour and said in wonder, "you can't even tell where the Mississippi begins and the farmland ends."

Mr. Gore talked to the president by phone and then assured residents there would be a "forceful, coordinated response."

## Russia calls for immediate ceasefire in Abkhazia

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia called Tuesday for an immediate ceasefire in Georgia's breakaway province of Abkhazia, ahead of a new round of negotiations on the bloody conflict by senior officials from Russia, Georgia and Abkhazia.

Russia was calling on all parties to forge an immediate agreement "as Moscow did on June 26," said Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Sergei Yastrebinski.

Speaking after a first round of negotiations held Monday failed to bring a truce, the spokesman deplored "the pursuit of this murderous conflict."

Georgian officials have alleged Russian troops are backing the

separatists in their independence struggle, which has killed at least 1,000 people since it broke out 11 months ago.

A second round of three-way talks was scheduled to take place later Tuesday.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher are to join Georgian and Abkhaz officials in the talks.

Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukov, Russia's representative at Monday's round, said the talks broke down over the Abkhaz separatists' demand to bring their parliament back to the province's capital Sukhumi after the withdrawal of Georgian forces.

## U.S. to press N. Korea to open nuclear sites

GENEVA (R) — The United States is expected to press North Korea Wednesday to accept international inspections of two suspected nuclear sites — or face the threat of U.N. sanctions.

The two countries, ideological foes for almost half a century, are resuming talks after a break of just over a month in a bid to defuse the crisis over Pyongyang's announcement in March that it was pulling out of a key nuclear treaty.

The earlier talks, held at the United Nations in New York, ended with North Korea agreeing to suspend its threat to withdraw from the 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), a bulwark against the spread of atomic weapons.

But, in the run-up to this week's new round, U.S. leaders have issued a series of stern warnings that North Korea is heading

for trouble if it continues to refuse access to suspected nuclear facilities.

At issue are two sites near its Yongbyon reactor, 95 kilometres north of Pyongyang. Washington suspects materials for nuclear weapons are being developed there but North Korea says they are secret conventional military sites.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told North Korea last week that Washington would not let the talks drag on indefinitely. South Korea has accused the North of stalling to gain time for its nuclear plans.

"If we can't resolve the problem... we'll turn to the U.N. and see it addressed at the U.N.," Mr. Christopher said, adding that the United States had already begun to consider what kind of sanctions might be imposed.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Gonzalez names new cabinet

MADRID (R) — Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Tuesday named a new 18-member cabinet, a month after he was returned to office in a general election, a government spokesman said. The new cabinet included eight new ministers with three women and six independents. Four ministers retained their posts. Deputy Prime Minister Narciso Serra was among those who kept their jobs. He will take on additional responsibilities for coordinating economic policy. Mr. Serra and Foreign Minister Javier Solana, who also retained his post, were the only two to have been in the cabinet since the Socialists first came to power in 1982. Mr. Gonzalez created a new Ministry of Commerce and Tourism, which will take over some responsibilities from the Industry Ministry, and a new Ministry of the Prime Minister's Office, which will combine the roles of the government spokesperson and the prime ministerial secretariat.

### French court confirms scandal sentence

PARIS (R) — A French appeal court Tuesday confirmed a four-year prison sentence on the former head of the National Blood Bank, Michel Garretta, for knowingly distributing AIDS-contaminated blood products to haemophiliacs. The court, ruling after an appeal hearing of former health officials accused of involvement in France's worst modern health scandal, also confirmed that Jean-Pierre Allain, ex-director of transfusion research, should serve four years with two suspended. Mr. Garretta and Mr. Allain were the principal defendants in a scandal in which some 1,250 haemophiliacs were infected — of whom more than 300 have died. During the six-week hearing, which ended last month and was effectively a retrial, they and two other former health officials faced charges of fraud, criminal negligence and failure to assist persons in danger over the contaminated transfusions in the period up to the end of 1985.

### 14 die in S. Africa township violence

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Gunmen firing at random from a moving car killed 14 people and injured 11 in two South African black townships on the eve of renewed peace talks in the Johannesburg region Tuesday. Police spokesman Piet Van Deventer said nine were killed on the streets of adjoining Sebokeng and Evaton townships, 50 kilometres south of Johannesburg. Another five victims died of their wounds in Sebokeng Hospital following the shooting spree which erupted at 7:45 p.m. Monday. The violence happened on the eve of talks in Johannesburg between Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and its main black political rival, Mangosuthu Buthe's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP).

### Malawi talks collapse

LILONGWE (AFP) — Talks between the Malawi government and the opposition on the formation of the interim national council to run the country until general elections have collapsed. Opposition and government sources indicated Tuesday. It was unclear when the talks between the opposition coalition of the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) and the government's Presidential Committee on Dialogue (PCD), which began last month, would resume. At a crucial meeting on June 21, the opposition and the government agreed the PAC would operate alongside parliament and the cabinet to oversee a transition to multi-party politics through the National Executive Council (NEC) and the National Consultative Council (NCC), following the rejection of continued single-party rule in a referendum on June 14. But when parliament met on June 29, it simply withdrew a bill to legalise the formation of the two councils, without explanation.

### Police checkpoint attacked in Karachi

KARACHI (AFP) — Unidentified men opened fire on a police checkpoint in Karachi Tuesday wounding a policeman as tensions mounted following the arrest of dozens of opposition supporters in the southern Pakistani city. Vehicles and a petrol station were set ablaze in unrest overnight Tuesday after the arrest since Sunday of more than 150 activists of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), an ethnic party based in the southern province of Sindh, police chief R.K. Brohi told a press conference. One constable was shot in the chest in the attack on the police post but was out of danger, hospital sources said. The MQM is campaigning for by-elections scheduled to be held on July 22. The local administration in the MQM's urban strongholds of Karachi and Hyderabad have refused to allow electoral rallies and protests have turned into confrontations with the police.

### Clinton approval rating set at 45%

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton failed to improve his job rating with the public despite apparently overshadowing foreign leaders at the Tokyo summit, according to a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll. It said that on June 30 before last week's Group of Seven summit, Mr. Clinton has a job approval rating of 46 per cent while 47 per cent disapproved. The rest did not have an opinion. In the new poll, July 9 through 11, his approval was one percentage point lower at 45 per cent, while 48 per cent disapproved of his handling of the presidential job. The poll of 1,002 adults had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points. On Mr. Clinton's handling of the economy, 60 per cent disapproved while 34 per cent approved and 59 per cent disapproved. This was despite Mr. Clinton's widely publicised claims at the summit that progress made on a tariff reduction plan and on trade with Japan would help create U.S. jobs.



Aerial photograph of burning houses Tuesday after an earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter Scale hit Okushiri Island in northern Japan (AFP photo)

## 240 feared dead in Japanese quake

ESASHI, Japan (AFP) — Two hundred and forty people were feared dead Tuesday after a major earthquake rocked northern Japan, triggering tidal waves, landslides and fires on the island of Okushiri northwest of here.

The tremor, the strongest to hit Japan in 10 years, devastated a wide area around the Sea of Okhotsk with at least three people reported dead or missing in the Russian far east and ships sunk in South Korea, reports from Moscow and Seoul said.

Officials said Tuesday 71 people died and another 169 were missing and feared dead. Hundreds of rescue workers began arriving on Okushiri in the afternoon, almost 18 hours after the undersea quake, measuring 7.8 on the open-ended Richter Scale, struck the west coast of Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island.

Fires sparked by broken gas lines devoured at least half of the 680 houses in Aomae, a fishing port on the southern tip of Okushiri.

"About 60 per cent of the town was completely destroyed and half of the town was on fire when I flew over it," a helicopter pilot said.

The island was battered by a series of tsunami, or tidal waves, up to five metres high overnight, sweeping away houses, boats and cars.

The first quake, which had an epicentre north of Okushiri, occurred late Monday and was followed by a series of aftershocks.

Many of the initial victims were buried in the two-storey Hotel Yoyoso, which collapsed in the quake. Others were feared killed as tidal waves swept away houses and also destroyed a breakwater in the port.

"I saw the river's water level rise suddenly," one man said in a televised interview as he stood in front of the remains of his battered house.

tered home, which had been moved several metres.

"I ran away but the water ran faster. Then I fell down and was drinking salty water," he said.

The island's airport was closed and ferry services linking Okushiri with the port of Esashi on Hokkaido were suspended.

In South Korea, rescue workers said the earthquake threw up a three-metre tidal wave, which hit the east coast of the country.

Fifteen fishing boats, including the 10-tonne Yongbokho, were sunk and 11 damaged after the tidal wave hit the Kangwon province towns of Sampo and Sokcho, some 170 kilometres north-west of Seoul, as well as Ullung Island in the Sea of Japan.

Reports from Moscow indicated at least three dead on Russia's far eastern coast. Communities around the coastal town of Nakhodka were evacuated.

In Esashi, some 60 kilometres southeast of Okushiri, rescue workers were frantically ferrying supplies of fresh vegetables and rice to a Maritime Safety Agency patrol vessel moored offshore.

In the parking lot at the Esashi ferry terminal, several cars were piled up or overturned after being hit by big waves. Another 30 vehicles were believed to have been tossed into the harbour.

Masamori Hirose, a 52-year-old owner of a souvenir shop, said he was driving his car past the town hall when the quake hit.

"The car started rolling. Then I was suddenly getting tossed around really violently," he said, adding that there was a flash in the sky before the city blacked out.

Later, Sakamoto, a local sanitation official, said he was in his house at the time of the quake.

"I felt a big jolt. I ran outside and was thrown up and down," he said.

Cracks could be seen along the highway between Esashi and

Hakodate, some 50 kilometres away, although traffic was still running normally.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa interrupted campaigning for Sunday's election and was expected to arrive in Hakodate later Tuesday before travelling to the island Wednesday.

"It was extremely awful and sad," Mr. Miyazawa said.

Hundreds of police and Self-Defence Forces troops started rescue operations before dawn and began flying to Okushiri by helicopter in the afternoon after being delayed by bad weather.

Katsumasa Abe, a professor at the Earthquake Research Institute of Tokyo University, said the tremor was one of the strongest ever in the area and greater than one in 1983 which claimed 104 lives and injured 163.

Another tremor in Hokkaido in January also measured 7.8 on the Richter Scale, leaving one dead and more than 350 injured.

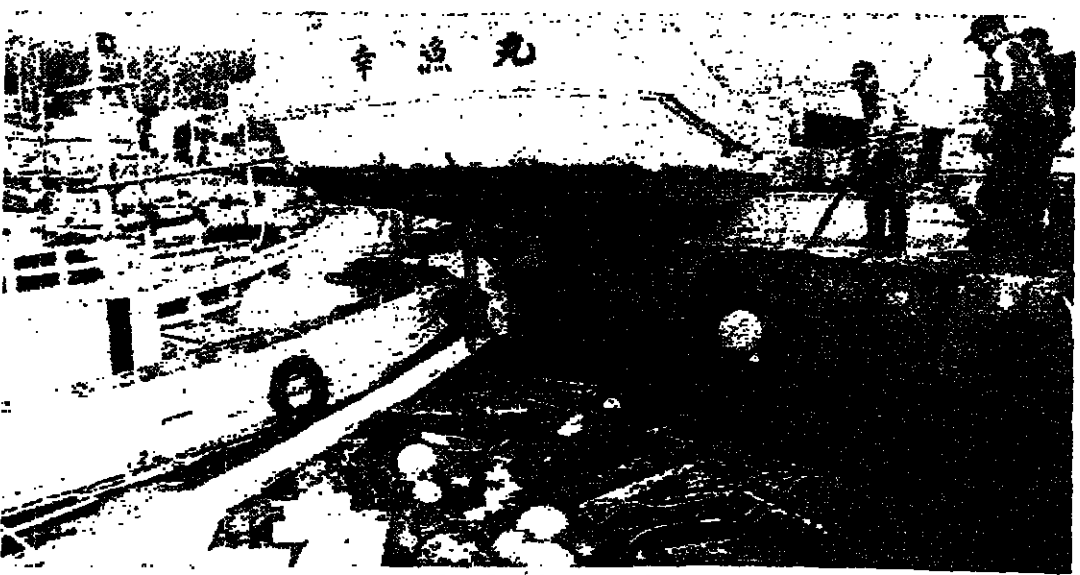
The powerful earthquake that jolted northern Japan Monday has rekindled fears of a repeat of the 1923 quake disaster that left 100,000 dead in the capital.

In Tokyo, where the earth periodically shakes, experts have been on the alert for the past two months due to the intensity of seismic activity in the Izu-Hanto peninsula, 100 kilometres south-west of the capital.

Some 9,000 jolts, more than 170 of them felt by the populace, have been recorded.

"We expect the tremors to continue in the Izu peninsula and special caution is necessary for earthquakes with a large intensity," said Kiyoo Mogi, chairman of the Construction Ministry's coordination committee for earthquake prediction.

A major earthquake in the Izu-Hanto peninsula would cause widespread damage in Tokyo, according to Japanese seismologists.



A boat sits on the pier after the earthquake triggered a tidal wave which hit the northern coast of Japan (AFP photo)

## Nigeria Social Democrats reject fresh polls

ABUJA (R) — Nigeria's Social Democratic Party rejected Tuesday proposed new presidential elections, saying the military government should accept the self-declared victory of the SDP candidate in last month's annulled poll.

"Now they (the government) have opted for fresh elections we are not ready to participate in fresh polls," Tony Anenih, chairman of the centre-left SDP, told Reuters. "There was nothing wrong with the last election."

With less than seven weeks to go before a planned handover of power to civilians, Nigeria's military rulers said Monday fresh voting was needed following the annulment of the June 12 ballot.

An SPD boycott could force the government to delay for a fourth time its transition to civilian rule programme.

"Let it be known that there is no alternative to the choice of a president for this country other than by democratic election," said a communiqué issued after Monday's meeting of senior military and police officers.

Mr. Anenih, a former senior police officer, accused the government of trying to prolong its

rule of Africa's most populous nation.

SDP candidate Moshood Abiola claimed victory in the scrapped election that led to the country's most serious political turmoil in a decade.

"I don't think the government in thinking of having elections between now and Aug. 27," Mr. Anenih said, referring to the handover date.

He said he believed the government was hoping the SDP and its sole rival, the centre-right National Republican Convention (NRC) would ask for an extension to the transition date in order to prepare for the new poll.

"That is the hidden agenda," he said.

The military leadership rejected a proposal on an interim government which the two army-created political parties had agreed to after military President Ibrahim Babangida told them either choose fresh polls or a temporary administration.

Mr. Anenih said the SDP opted for the interim arrangement for the sake of peace and "because it was the only way out."

NRC officials said the party's leaders would meet Tuesday to

consider the government's decisions.

The NRC had sought a fresh election and blamed its poor performance in the June poll on low voter turnout.

"They are ready for elections because they were the loser," Mr. Anenih said.

On Monday, the military leadership said it was committed to handing power to civilians next month.

"The armed forces wish to reassure our citizens of their commitment to 27th of August and to make this administration the last military administration in the country," said the statement issued by the senior officers.

The generals called on the two political parties to help them achieve the transition.

The government had said it scrapped last month's elections, considered by local and foreign observers to have been generally free and fair, because of malpractices, including bribery of officials.

Lagos and other southwestern Nigerian cities where Mr. Abiola is widely supported were hit by massive anti-government protests last week.

## Rome shows open with bold colours, jungle prints

ROME (R) — Rome's autumn and winter haute couture fashion shows opened with loud bursts of tangerine and pink, and binding zebra prints straight from the local zoo. In a show that had models dancing and hosing down the catwalk, men's clothing designer Osvaldo Testa offered warm colours and prints with a jungle beat. His zoo prints — on everything from Sherlock Holmes caps to waistcoats — left the audience slack-jawed. Models strode down the runway like kings of the jungle in zebra-stripe jackets with jet-black arms. Leopard spots were everywhere — even on waistcoats worn under green corduroy morning coats. "I made these clothes to save the beasts," said Testa, who wore a simple khaki suit and leopard-print tie. "I'd much rather see beasts printed on clothes than dead," he told Reuters. Midway through the show, Testa abandoned the safari and trekked to the Scottish highlands, mixing tartans, tweeds, corduroy and velvet with bravado. Testa said he believes velvet possesses a magical element touching it is like dreaming. "It's like stroking a kind of glorious skin," he said. Velvet tartan jackets, chalk-stripe double-breasted suits, and velvet corduroy trousers played the leading role in his fall and winter collection. Testa also played daintily with plaids, using as many as five different tartans for one jacket. He often paired the mismatched jackets with checkered tweed trousers.

## Thieves rob prison in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Three brazen thieves held up the bail office at a prison, taking 70,000 rand (\$21,000), a newspaper reported. The three armed robbers entered the Diepkloof Prison in the Soweto black township Sunday without raising suspicion. They then forced an official in the bail office to open the safe and they made off with all the cash, the Citizen newspaper said. Police and prison officials said they could not explain how armed robbers entered the prison and the bail office without being noticed. Crime is rampant throughout South Africa, but the latest robbery appeared to be a first. Danie Immanuel, a spokesman for the Prisons Department, said he had never before heard of a prison being robbed. In another unusual criminal case, police said they had arrested two men and recovered a stolen truck that was carrying a radioactive soil testing device. However, the device itself remained missing. Police spokesman Warrant Officer Andy Peike said there was still no sign of the device, which could unleash radiation in a five-kilometre radius if damaged. The vehicle, stolen last Thursday, Car and truck hijackings have become common around Johannesburg.

## China's richest village thwarts theft of \$20m

HONG KONG (AFP) — A cashier in China's richest village disappeared, taking with him nearly \$20 million worth of shares, a report said Tuesday. But authorities in Lower Takeng, in the Longgang district of the Shenzhen special economic zone, managed to save most of their shares and deposits worth 115 million yuan (\$20 million) after the cashier vanished about two weeks ago, the China News Service reported. The villagers did not realise most of the investments were in the cashier's name, the report said. The cashier, who was not identified, had obtained a U.S. passport in December last year. He has been arrested. Lower Takeng became China's richest village after land sales for the construction of a nuclear power plant at Daya Bay, a joint venture between China and Hong Kong, in 1982. The 59 villagers invested 600,000 yuan from land sales in an investment company, which listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange in June 1991.

Speaking after a first round of negotiations held Monday failed to bring a truce, the spokesman deplored "the pursuit of this murderous conflict."

Georgian officials have alleged Russian troops are backing the

separatists in their independence struggle, which has killed at least 1,000 people since it broke out 11 months ago.

A second round of three-way talks was scheduled to take place later Tuesday.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher are to join Georgian and Abkhaz officials in the talks.

Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukov, Russia's representative at Monday's round, said the talks broke down over the Abkhaz separatists' demand to bring their parliament back to the province's capital Sukhumi after the withdrawal of Georgian forces.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher told North Korea last week that Washington would not let the talks drag on indefinitely. South Korea has accused the North of stalling to gain time for its nuclear plans.

"If we can't resolve the problem... we'll turn to the U.N. and see it addressed at the U.N.," Mr. Christopher said, adding that the United States had already begun to consider what kind of sanctions might be imposed.

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## Marseille boss accuses investigators of using 'gangster' methods

PARIS (AP) — Bernard Tapie, the Olympique Marseille president, Tuesday accused investigators of using "gangster" methods in the soccer bribes scandal that has left his political ambitions increasingly exposed.

The former government minister launched his attack as Marseille player Jean-Jacques Eydelie was released from custody, a day after embarrassing his club leaders by going back on his denial of involvement in attempts to bribe Valenciennes players.

Eydelie remains charged with corruption. Jean-Pierre Bernes, the Marseille general manager, is the only person left in custody of the five people charged. He still denies offering money to three Valenciennes players on the eve of a league match.

Mr. Tapie said, in an intervention with the Marseille newspaper Le Soir, that "no serious, real proof of Olympique Marseille's guilt" had been found by investigators.

The outspoken Marseille owner also cast doubt on the way in which Eydelie changed his evidence to investigating magistrate Bernard Beffy.

"The methods being used to make people talk are those normally used by the big gangsters," he added.

The means by which custody orders, seizure of documents and raids have been carried out are unique in police history.

Mr. Tapie faces a related investigation into claims that he offered money to Valenciennes coach Boro Primorac to take the blame for the bribes scandal.

He has denied the accusations and countered in the interview that despite the increasing pressure he had no intention of quitting the club, French champions and winners of the European Championship Cup.

"I will not abandon my ship

until it is safely back in port," he said. "Now is the time when he needs even greater means to face" the crisis.

Mr. Tapie admitted that the front page revelations that have kept the French public spell-bound for the past two weeks were taking a toll on Marseille's image.

He told Le Soir that of the 500 concerns prepared to take a shareholding in the champion club before the bribes inquiry was launched only about 20 remained.

The revelations have already had a negative effect on his political dealings.

Mr. Tapie, a businessman tycoon turned politician, was minister of urban affairs in the last Socialist government. He is said to have ambitions to become mayor of Marseille on the back of the football club's success as a launchpad for a return to the national political stage.

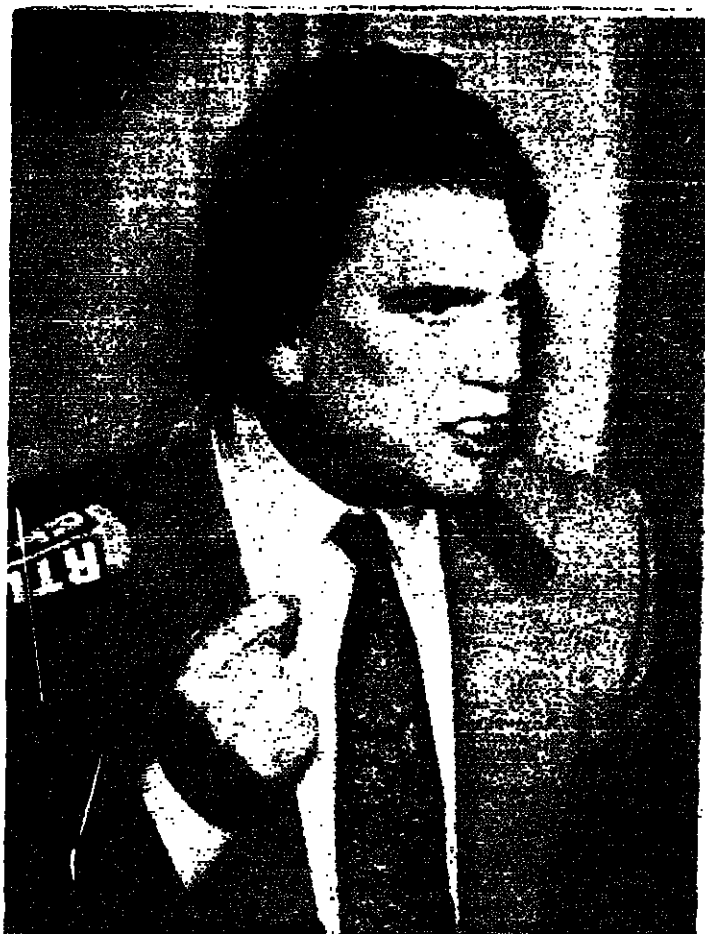
But last week Socialist Party leader Michel Rocard called off a meeting with its Radical Left Movement ally, because Mr. Tapie was scheduled to be among the radicals' delegation.

Mr. Rocard's decision has caused a split between the two parties. But the former prime minister justified this by saying: "It would only have become a Rocard-Tapie press conference on Olympic Marseille."

Edouard Balladur, the current prime minister, has also criticized football's leaders for displaying "a disgraceful example" to the nation's youth.

Eydelie's decision to change his evidence clearly astounded and embarrassed the Marseille club hierarchy.

Bernes lawyer, Jean-Louis Pelletier, said the decision to free Eydelie on bail was "a reward" for the turnaround. Eydelie's change came, though, just after his wife told investigators that



Bernard Tapie

Bernes had pressured her husband into offering the bribes.

Pelletier joined the attack on the way in which the investigation was being handled in Valenciennes by Judge Beffy and state prosecutor Eric de Montgolfier.

He said he would apply Tuesday for the case to be transferred. Eydelie said through his lawyer Patrick Lefevre that players were increasingly being manipulated by their club owners.

Mr. Lefevre said this kind of scandal "happens more often in Argentina and Italy where all the games are fixed."

"My client considers that this affair has gone over the heads of the players who are manipulated by the leaders of football clubs," added the lawyer.

Evidence of other attempts to

buy matches, based on Eydelie's new account, will be passed to the prosecution department in Marseille, the Valenciennes prosecutor said.

Jean-Jacques Eydelie did raise a rather dubious system, said Mr. De Montgolfier, in giving an account of a meeting between the player and the investigating magistrate.

"The most serious elements, though not very substantial for the moment, naturally concern his club."

Mr. De Montgolfier added: "Eydelie gave an overall impression of an environment that was so unappealing, that at one stage the magistrate asked him: 'Are there any matches that are not fixed?' His response was 'I think so.'"

## Tour de France Riders ponder Indurain's invincibility

VILLARD-DE-LANS, France (R) — The mountains hove into view at the Tour de France Tuesday but riders had their sights instead on the towering stature of the apparently invincible Miguel Indurain.

The Spaniard grabbed back the leader's yellow jersey in Monday's ninth stage with one of the devastating time trial performances for which he is famed.

It was the sixth time the yellow jersey had changed hands in this year's race but riders spent their rest day pondering whether there was even a remote chance of it finding a new owner before the Tour ends in Paris on July 25.

Indurain, winner of the Tour for the past two years, seems firmly in control even before the race crosses its first mountain pass Wednesday with the tough stage from Villard-De-Lans to Serre-Chevalier in the Alps.

His perennial rival Claudio Chiappucci of Italy, relegated to 14th place more than five minutes behind, had no doubts about it.

"Of course I will attack him in the mountains," he said. "I couldn't do otherwise. But you can't forget Indurain will have another time trial just before Paris."

"I'm very disappointed but I think that beating him is practically impossible."

Before the race started, Indurain seemed to have four serious rivals — Chiappucci, world champion Gianni Bugno of Italy and the Swiss pair of Alex Zülle and Tony Rominger.

Of these, only Bugno is relatively close, fourth overall and two minutes 32 seconds down.

Bugno, while not sounding over-confident, was not quite prepared to accept that the race was over.

"For me and for the climbers, the Tour starts tomorrow," he said. "I hope it won't be just racing for second place."

But he acknowledged Indurain's supremacy against the clock. "We have to admit once and for all that he's in a class of his own in time trials," the Italian said.

"He's much too strong and once you accept that principle, you can't be too disappointed."

"The one thing I regret is that he's the same age as me. If things had been better, God would have put me in competition with his brother."

Curiously, Monday's time trial at the Lac De Madine had an Indurain first and last.

Younger brother Prudencio was 17th, 17 minutes 48 seconds behind the champion and would probably have been eliminated on time delay had Miguel not lost several seconds after a puncture.

Former champions Laurent Fignon, who is 37th, and Greg Lemond, not taking part, believe Indurain could have problems in the mountains if all his rivals persistently attack.

But both said they feared everyone would tacitly accept Indurain's invincibility and watch each other as they eyed the chances of finishing second or third.

Dutch rider Eric Breukink, who started as an outsider but is now Indurain's closest rival at one minute 35 seconds, has already said he would not attack in the next two tough mountain stages in the Alps.

"If we come out of the Alps with the same time gap, I could attack in the Pyrenees," he said. "In the Alps the important thing will be not to lose time."

The only rider playing down Indurain's prospects in Indurain himself, "Everything starts now," he said. "Chiappucci is a long way back but he's on his favourite terrain."

"Bugno is dangerous because he's a lot more relaxed than usual."

"The decision will be made in the next two days. No-one



Miguel Indurain

knows, me no better than anyone else, how your body will react to passing suddenly from the flat to the mountains.

"For 10 days we've been riding at 45 kph on average. One bad day in the mountains and you could lose minutes."

"Everyone will want to attack me on Wednesday and I'm afraid I won't be able to reply. I'm heavy. I don't have the same assets as Chiappucci, Bugno and Rominger who carry 10 or 15 kg less than me up the climbs."

It is the same old Indurain

refrain but, in the past, he has proved a much better climber than he cares to admit and he has the invaluable support of his Banesto team, packed with mountain experts.

Davide Boifava, manager of Chiappucci's Carrera team, has a totally different way of looking at it.

"The course was made for Indurain. They've killed off the Tour before it got halfway," he said. "We can sit back in our armchairs and wait quietly till we reach Paris."

## Sydney welcomes IOC report, but remains cautious

SYDNEY (R) — Olympic bid officials Tuesday welcomed a technical report which put Sydney firmly ahead in the chase for the 2000 games but warned their quest was "still not in the bag."

"We are pleased with the result but I think it is also important to bring into it a note of caution," Bruce Baird, the senior politician in charge of the Australian bid, told reporters.

Mr. Baird said although Barcelona and Atlanta were both ranked by Olympic inspectors as the best technical bids for the 1992 and 1996 games, Salt Lake City was also ranked first technically for the 1998 Winter Olympics but lost out to the Japanese city of Nagoya.

"It (Salt Lake City) nearly went out in the first round of voting, the same could happen to us," Mr. Baird said.

The International Olympic Committee's (IOC) technical report, released officially Tuesday

after a draft version was leaked last week, said the Sydney bid exceeded the IOC criteria for the Olympic facilities.

"If you look at the 23 things that matter on the technical side, the Sydney bid is bloody nearly perfect," one IOC official told Reuters in London.

But Mr. Baird said the games venue, to be decided on Sept. 23 in Monte Carlo, was still not in the bag. "The numbers are tight and anybody that suggests otherwise is fooling themselves," he said.

Mr. Baird said he still believed Peking was Sydney's major opponent, although Manchester came out more favourably than the Chinese capital in the IOC technical report.

The other cities in the six-way race for the games are Berlin, Istanbul and Brasilia.

The reports, compiled by a 11-man IOC inquiry team which visited the bidding cities in March

and April, is intended as a guideline for the IOC members when they vote in September.

Mr. Baird said the release of the report came at a good time as many IOC delegates were visiting bidding cities in the northern hemisphere's summer, taking attention away from Sydney which has already hosted visits by more than 60 of them.

The technical report placed a number of question marks against the present suitability of Peking and was critical of the city's low standard of environmental protection and plans to house athletes in tower blocks rising to 22 storeys.

Manchester and Berlin fared reasonably well, while doubts were raised about Istanbul.

The report was scathing about rank outsider Brasilia, where the general standards were "currently below what is expected of an Olympic bid."

Mr. Baird said the report should do the talking for the Sydney bid, avoiding and slanging match with other bidding cities.

"The report says it all. The report shows by comparing one city to another, that we come out as the best and for that we make no apologies but does not mean we don't have to do a lot of strong work (lobbying) in between."

The report said Sydney had an overwhelming number of points in its favour. These included its safe environment, widespread support from governments, businessmen and environmental

groups and the compact nature of the bid.

Competitors in 14 sports will be able to walk to venues.

Australian bookmakers were less cautious than the Sydney bid officials in putting the city as clear favourite at 6-4 on to win the Olympics with Peking at 5-4 against and Manchester at 5-1 against.

### Samaranch upset

Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch admitted Monday he was upset about the leak of a technical report on the six cities bidding to stage the 2000 Summer Olympic Games.

The IOC president, asked about the leak on his arrival to visit venue candidates Manchester, said: "I was upset, yes."

But he added it would make no difference to the bidding process. When reporters suggested to Mr. Samaranch that Sydney would be the Olympic venue, he said: "There are 90 members of the IOC — I don't vote — who will make the final decision."

"I don't know if it is Sydney, Peking, Manchester, Berlin, Brasilia or Istanbul. We have many members and they are visiting all the cities. The decision will be made on Sept. 23 in Monaco."

Organisers of Peking's Olympics 2000 bid said Tuesday they were undaunted despite an IOC inspectors' report voicing a number of concerns.

"We don't think there is anything in the report that is dis-

advantageous to us," Wu Zhongyuan, spokesman for Peking 2000 Olympic Games Bid Committee, said. "We are absolutely filled with confidence."

Mr. Wu said the report, which he called "relatively objective," pointed out China's advantages and where a shortcoming was mentioned acknowledged the organisers were already aware of it.

"The report pointed out that we are aware of the problems and have made concrete plans to overcome them," he said.

"In areas where we lag we can certainly catch up by the year 2000."

Insufficient foreign language speakers and an inadequate telecommunications network were drawbacks which would need to be addressed, the report said.

By contrast, the inspectors were impressed by Peking's ability to house all IOC members and other Olympic administrators in one hotel.

"They liked our idea of 'one big family,'" Mr. Wu said. "They were impressed by the support from the people and the government."

### Manchester fared 'extremely well'

Manchester officials said Tuesday they had fared "extremely well" in the IOC inspectors' technical report.

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♥ A 10 7 5 3 2

♦ A 6

WEST EAST

♠ 7 6 4 2 ♠ Q 10 9 3

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SOUTH

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The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♣ Pass 2 NT Pass

3 ♣ Pass 4 NT Pass

5 ♣ Pass 7 ♣ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

There are hands where you have

more than one way to make the

contract. Sometimes, the line you

choose is dictated by the opening

lead. Consider this example from

the recent European Junior

Championships.

Seven hearts was reached by sev-

eral teams. On the auction shown,

two no trump was a forcing raise in

hearts and three diamonds prom-

ised a singleton. Since North knew that the club loser would go on the ace of spades, the grand slam was a good shot.

West led a club and South made short work of the hand. Declarer won, cashed the king of spades and ace of diamonds, then ruffed a diamond. After cashing the ace of spades for a club discard from the table, declarer crossruffed the hand, scoring in all two spades, a diamond and a club and nine trump tricks via ruffing four black losers in dummy and five diamonds in the closed hand—13 tricks in all.

Against the same grand slam, a trump was led at another table. Now declarer could no longer collect enough tricks through a crossruff. But another road was open.

After winning the opening lead in hand, declarer cashed the ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond. The king of spades provided the entry for a second diamond ruff, a club was discarded on the ace of spades and dummy was entered with the ace of clubs for another diamond ruff. Declarer cashed the ace of hearts, crossed to the board with a club ruff and drew the last trump, and dummy took the last two tricks with high diamonds. Making seven-

odd.

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	CONCORD	PLAZA	PHILADELPHIA	Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE	DELINQUENTS	STALLONE — IN Dolby Stereo	AI Pacino — in SCENT OF A WOMAN	Nabil Nabil and Hisham Theatre	AHLAN NABIL AND HISHAM THEATRE
	Shows: 3:00, 6:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9 p.m.	For the first time in Amman you have a date with the National Palestinian Theatre — the Gaza Strip — in a play entitled: <b>The Assassination of Hantalah</b> by artist Saad Bitar	The theatre will be closed in preparation for "Ahlam Arab Summit" play which will be shown at the Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts.	Shows: 12:00, 5:00, 8:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:15, 9 p.m.	Shows on Friday and Saturday, June 4 and 5 at 8:30 p.m. Please book seats in advance	



## 6 Muslim countries to send troops to Bosnia safe areas

Combined agency despatches

ISLAMABAD — Six Muslim countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have agreed to supply 7,600 soldiers or more if requested by the United Nations to protect six Muslim security zones in Bosnia, diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

Bosnia's Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic expressed satisfaction on the decision taken at a two-day meeting in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad by member states of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

"We are on the right track. We will secure enough troops," Mr. Silajdzic told AFP. "Now the main question concerns applying the measures adopted."

Pakistan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Siddique Kanju said the conference had adopted a "plan of action" envisaging concrete steps to mitigate sufferings of the Muslim population and calling for a cessation of hostilities in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Specific commitments" have been made by Bangladesh, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Turkey, Tunisia and Palestine — which is recognised as a state by the OIC — to deploy troops in the former Yugoslav state, Mr. Kanju said at the closing session here.

He said the number of troops offered by the participants would be more than the so-called "light option" which calls for stationing 7,600 peacekeepers at six designated safe areas in Bosnia.

"We are prepared to provide additional troops if requested by the United Nations" to enforce peace in the region, where the mainly Muslim Bosnian army is fighting Serbian and Croat forces, he said.

Observers said this is probably the first time the OIC has taken a concrete step on an international issue.

Pakistan, Bangladesh and Malaysia are to dispatch troops immediately to Bosnia, the sources said.

Other countries, such as Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, have requested U.N. clarification of the troops mandate in Bosnia. Iran and Turkey have expressed

ed willingness to participate in protecting U.N. peacekeepers and their appeal to do so will be transmitted for assessment by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, a diplomatic source said.

Iran led the group, offering 5,000 to 10,000 soldiers, another source said.

In Sarajevo, meanwhile, Bosnia's Muslim president and the leader of Bosnian Serbs have signed an accord that could restore utilities to Sarajevo, as shelling reportedly killed 12 people waiting for scarce water.

Bosnian radio quoted the Bosnian army as saying 12 were killed and 15 were wounded Monday when a shell hit at a water tap in the suburb of Dobrinja, near the airport.

Radio reported two others killed and three wounded by another shell hitting the old city Monday.

Peter Kessler, of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, reported earlier Monday that the last major source of drinking water in Sarajevo had been cut because of lack of fuel for a pump.

The acute water shortage has raised concerns that disease could spread. "Kessler reported 200 to 300 cases of dysentery daily because of residents using dirty groundwater."

Mr. Kessler said the pump serving a well at the city brewery stopped operating Sunday because of a Serb blockade of fuel.

The well had been supplying less than 20 per cent of Sarajevo's normal water needs. The main pumping station is in Serb-controlled territory.

Monday's agreement on restoring water and utilities was signed by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. It was negotiated by Bernard Kouchner, France's former health minister, in separate meetings with the rival leaders.

Mr. Kouchner said U.N. experts would work out the details. He said water, gas and power could be back within a few days if all went well.

Mr. Kouchner said Mr. Izetbegovic agreed in principle to attend peace talks in Geneva if utilities are restored and if the

warring parties cease offensive action during the talks.

In a letter read on Bosnian radio, Mr. Izetbegovic urged Dr. Ghali to back his demands.

Bosnia's collective presidency has refused to accept a three-way partition of their country along ethnic lines as proposed by Serbian and Croatian leaders. It fears the division would leave Muslims jammed into a tiny state between hostile Serbian and Croatian neighbours.

Serbs, who control about 70 per cent of Bosnia, reject Bosnian Muslim proposals to maintain Bosnia as a federation of provinces that would not be formed strictly along ethnic lines.

The New York Times quoted a classified State Department document as saying that the Serb-Croat partition plan could require the settlement of 1.5 million two million people.

The report does not promote or criticise the plan, but predicted that masses of Serbs, Croats and Muslims would move either through choice or coercion if the plan is implemented, the paper reported in Tuesday editions.

Muslim-led government troops were reported Tuesday to have launched a major offensive outside the disputed Bosnian city of Mostar but were on the retreat from advancing Serbs on another front.

Croat sources and U.N. peacekeepers in Mostar in southwestern Bosnia reported that artillery duels and close-quarters battles between Muslims and Croats erupted at the southern entrance to the city early on Tuesday.

"It's an all-out Muslim offensive on our positions," Veso Vego, spokesman for the Croatian defence council (HVO) told Reuters in Zagreb by telephone from Mostar, in south-west Bosnia.

He said thousands of Muslim troops were trying to cut a key road south of the city.

The upsurge of fighting threatened to disrupt U.N. relief operations in Bosnia, and followed warning from peace mediators that the United Nations may have to withdraw from Bosnia if the situation deteriorates.



BAGHDAD PROTEST: Iraqi women demonstrate outside the U.N. office in Baghdad Tuesday against the U.N. inspection team and the U.S. military action grows over the refusal of Iraq to allow U.N. monitoring of two missile sites (AFP photo)

## Jordan steps up anti-drugs battle

By John Halaby  
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Jordan has stepped up its anti-narcotics campaign because of a growing drug abuse problem which authorities are blaming largely on Jordanians who fled Kuwait after the 1990 Iraqi invasion, officials said Tuesday.

Jordan has never had a serious domestic drug problem, although it has traditionally been a transit route for hashish and marijuana being smuggled from Lebanon, Syria and Egypt to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states.

But "the situation has been changing in the last three years with an increasing number of Jordanians, mainly from the Gulf, abusing drugs," a senior narcotics control official said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that many of the returnees were well-to-do and brought a drug habit with them from the Gulf.

Sari Nassir, dean of the Sociology Department at Jordan University, said: "Frustration fuelled by the sudden transformation of Jordanian society, as well as severe unemployment, are major factors in the increasing tendency among the returnees to turn to narcotics."

More than 320,000 Jordanians and Palestinians, many with Jordanian nationality, fled Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion, or were expelled after the liberation in February 1991.

Many had been born in the

emirate and had few ties to Jordan.

Unemployment has soared since the returnees flooded into the country, boosting a population already swollen by Palestinian refugees by 10 per cent almost overnight.

Dr. Nassir and government officials conceded that Jordan had economic and social problems before it was burdened with the returnees. But they stressed that the unexpected influx has "exacerbated these problems."

"Most of the cases of consumption and possession we had been 1990 involved hashish," said the drug control official. "But now we find a surprisingly high number of hard-drug cases involving heroin and opium."

A study recently released by Jordan's Anti-Narcotics Bureau said there were 90 known addicts in the Kingdom in 1992 out of a population of 3.5 million, compared with 70 in 1991 and 69 in 1990.

The study did not indicate whether returnees constituted the bulk of the addicts, but social workers said many of the patients were teenagers from former expatriate families.

Social workers said that drug abuse statistics could be much higher than the official figures since hashish is popular in Jordan, and because it is not considered addictive, users do not show up on rehabilitation records.

The study said there were 485, or more than one-third, of them in the last three years.

The study noted that in the last decade, 25,405 kilograms of hashish were seized — more than half of that since 1990.

The figures are alarming Jordan's security forces, who are now intensifying their operations to prevent the spread of illegal drugs in this conservative Kingdom.

Brigadier Hisham Ensour, head of the Anti-Narcotics Bureau, said increased cooperation with security forces in Syria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt had helped smash several major smuggling rings and foil "hundreds of cases of attempted smuggling."

He said increased patrols along the Kingdom's borders with Syria and Saudi Arabia to curb the smuggling of cigarettes and electronic goods has helped the fight against narcotics.

Colonel Adnan Shamayleh, Brig Ensour's deputy, said the price of drugs had gone up in Lebanon and Syria following the recent destruction of marijuana and opium fields in the Syrian-controlled Bekka Valley in eastern Lebanon.

"Limited supplies, coupled with the high risks that the smugglers face, have driven up the prices by at least 50 per cent," making the rewards for the smugglers more attractive, he said.

Col. Shamayleh said the average price in Lebanon of one kilogramme of good quality hashish has gone up from \$1,000 at the start of the year to \$1,500.

## Betselem launches drive against killing of children

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli human rights group Betselem, alarmed by apparent public and official indifference, launched a campaign Tuesday to stem the rising toll of Palestinian children killed by Israeli soldiers.

It said Israeli soldiers had killed 232 Palestinian youngsters under 17 since the Palestinian revolt against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip began in December 1987.

"Thirty-eight of them were killed during the last six months," Betselem said in a statement at a news conference.

"This is more than double the number of children killed in the entire previous year and of a magnitude unprecedented since the intifada began."

The organisation, which monitors Israeli action in the occupied territories, said it hoped to spur a write-in campaign to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who is also defence minister, to curb the killings.

The army issued a statement saying orders "forbid shooting at children." It said the children were killed mainly when near scenes of confrontation or by soldiers who were not aware of their presence.

Betselem said: "With 232 children dead in five and a half years, the absence of deliberate intent does not detract from or mitigate the gravity of the guilt borne by the security forces."

"The principal reason for the killing of children in such large numbers is a deliberate policy of opening fire in situations in which soldiers are not in mortal danger."

Betselem said the army's own statements showed soldiers' lives were not endangered in at least 32 of the 38 incidents in which children were killed in the past six months.

The organisation documented recent cases in which soldiers killed a 14-year-old boy who was fleeing from a clash in a village, a four-year-old boy who was in a car that turned around a roadblock and a 20-month-old boy who was sheltering with his father inside a shop.

Betselem said it hoped its campaign — to last one day for each of the 35 children killed in the past six months — would make the Israeli public aware of the level of killing in the occupied territories.

The organisation said it hoped public pressure would lead to a change in open-fire rules to stop soldiers from firing unless their lives are endangered.

Spokesman Eitan told the Associated Press said Betselem was "specifically suggesting the army reduce the permitted use of lethal weapons to life-threatening situations."

A dozen demonstrators holding up posters of dead children at a busy intersection faced about 50 hecklers. Police watching over the demonstration did not prevent hecklers from grabbing and ripping up posters.

Mr. Felner noted that it was the first time Betselem brought its case to the public. "We have not succeeded in making this a public issue," he said.

A total of 234 Palestinians 15 or under have been killed in clashes with Israelis since the beginning of the uprising in December 1987, among 1,129 Palestinians over all. Palestinians have killed 743 fellow Arabs, most on suspicion of collaborating with Israel, and 140 Israelis have died.

4 Kahane supporters held

Four followers of the late extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane have been arrested as suspects in a grenade attack that killed one Arab man and wounded eight last year, police said Tuesday.

Israeli media said the youths told police the Nov. 16 attack was in revenge for the November 1991 assassination of Rabbi Kahane in a New York City hotel.

The youths, who reenacted the attack for police, were detained before dawn Sunday and ordered held 10 days by court order, reporters and police said. Their names were not published because they are minors.

Three suspects are 17 and a third is 16, the national Itim news agency said. One is from a Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and the others are from Jerusalem, it said.

They belong to the "Kahane Chai" movement, founded after the Kahane's assassination, Ben-Ruby said.

In the attack, an army-issue fragmentation grenade was hurled into a narrow alley in the butchers' market in Jerusalem's old walled city, killing Rakez Adqal, 62, of Al Ram north of Jerusalem and wounding another eight Palestinians.

## Column

### Rumours that Deng has cancer 'totally groundless'

PEKING (AFP) — China denied as "totally groundless" Tuesday a report that paramount leader Deng Xiaoping had undergone surgery for testicular cancer.

This report is totally groundless, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said. The Japanese newspaper, Yomiuri Shimbun, had reported Thursday that Mr. Deng, who will be 89 next month, was receiving treatment at home following an operation last month.

Mr. Deng was still working, but only on very important matters, the newspaper said. It said news of Mr. Deng's illness and operation were obtained from army officials.

Taiwan's official Central News Agency (CNA), in a dispatch from Peking Tuesday, quoted Cheng Siyuan, 85-year-old vice chairman of the National People's Congress, as denying that Mr. Deng had undergone any cancer treatment.

Mr. Deng's son, Deng Pufang, who heads China's handicapped association, to visit the island.

### Cuban stowaways travel to Miami in style

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) — A Cuban family casually boarded a cruise ship and, without paying, enjoyed four days as normal tourists before they arrived here and asked for political asylum.

The family, the Ramezons, said Monday. The family of Barbara Ramezol, 39, Vicente Fuster, 45, and their son Moises, 20, and daughter Gretchen, 11, boarded the 2,354-berth Majesty of the Seas in Grand Cayman Island Wednesday, arriving in Miami Sunday. They had previously fled to Grand Cayman from Cuba in a small boat in late March. Shortly after their arrival here, Ms. Ramezol said all four had boarded the ship freely and spent four days dining in the buffet lounge, walking about the ship at night and sleeping in the movie theatre during the day.

"We sat by the pool as if we were normal tourists," she said. Under U.S. law, the cruise line could be fined up to \$3,000 for each stowaway they bring to the United States and is responsible for the family's lodging food and security arrangements while they stay in a Miami hotel pending their asylum hearing.

### Ordination of women moves a step closer

LONDON (AFP) — The ordination of women priests within the Church of England moved a step nearer when a committee of MPs and peers voted by 16 to 11 to accept that the ordination of women was "expedient." The Parliamentary Ecclesiastical Committee also voted 17-10 in private session in favour of financial provision for those who felt they had to leave the church because of their opposition to the move. The committee expected to complete its report by the end of July. It will go to both Houses of Parliament in October and will return to the Church of England General Synod in November.

Assuming a clear passage, women priests could then be ordained from next year. The committee is said to be trying "very hard" to achieve a unanimous report, despite deep differences. Liberal Democrat MP Simon Hughes, who supports female ordination, said: "Today marks probably the most momentous decision this committee has taken in the 70 years of its existence."

### Disney wife, daughter condemn new biography

LOS ANGELES (R) — The widow and daughter of famed animator and theme park creator Walt Disney issued a booklet condemning a new unauthorised biography that claims Disney was an informant for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, an alcoholic and an anti-Semite. The 100-page volume contains sworn statements by family members, former FBI Director William Webster, and former and current Walt Disney Co employees. Disney's widow, Lillian, and daughter, Diane Disney Miller, denied claims made by author Marc Eliot in his book, "Walt Disney: Hollywood's Dark Prince." Disney died in 1966 at age 65.

## Pro-Israeli militia warns Beirut

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The commander of Israel's client South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia said Tuesday the Lebanese government would pay a harsh price for any further attacks by guerrillas on Israeli and SLA forces.

"The Lebanese state itself thus will pay the price and not only the Hizbollah organisation, or Ahmad Jibril's organisation," General Antoine Lahd said in remarks broadcast by Israel Radio.

A former Lebanese army officer, Gen. Lahd warned the Lebanese government the response would be harsh if it continued to allow the guerrilla attacks.

Guerrillas have been on alert across Lebanon for several days, anticipating Israel's retaliation for the killing of five Israeli soldiers last week in the year's fiercest attacks.

Israeli and SLA troops have generally avoided military con-

frontations with Lebanon, a party to U.S.-brokered Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Mr. Rabin has vowed to avenge the attacks, but Israeli commentators have said no retaliation is expected until after a U.S. team trying to resuscitate the stalled peace talks departs the region.

Israel meanwhile moved further reinforcements into southern Lebanon.

Three Merkava tanks, three armoured vehicles, four jeeps and seven troop transporters crossed the Israeli-Lebanese border and headed for an Israeli-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon, a source close to the army reported.

Artillery pieces, along with tanks and armoured vehicles, were moved into the "security zone" over the weekend.

In occupied Jerusalem, U.S. peace talks coordinator Dennis Ross discussed Lebanon with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin

and senior defence and army officials on Tuesday, officials said.

The team was expected to leave the area later in the day or on Wednesday.

On Sunday Mr. Ross carried a warning from Mr. Rabin to Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, to curb the guerrillas.

Officials hinted Mr. Ross on Tuesday brought Israel Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's reply to the Rabin warning.

The Lebanon attacks coincided with the arrival of the Ross team, which is trying to resolve an Israeli-Palestinian deadlock in the 20-month-old talks.

In Damascus on Tuesday, Syria welcomed a fresh pledge by President Bill Clinton that the United States would work as a full partner in Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"Therefore it is necessary to give another chance to save the peace process and work to push it on the right direction," wrote the official daily Al Baath.

## Majali

(Continued from page 1)

would have civil defence, public security, health and social centres, said the prime minister.

These centres, he added, will encourage local citizens to take up voluntary work and contribute towards ensuring public safety.

"Public safety does not mean only dealing with the consequences of natural disasters like floods, snow storms and earthquakes, but also day-to-day problems facing the residents of each area," he said.

Citizens will be encouraged to take collective action to deal with matters that can pose danger to the local community, he added.

According to an Interior Ministry statement, the Higher Safety Committee, which is chaired by Minister of Interior Saleh Hamad, discussed a report outlining a number of major problems facing Amman. These included issues pertaining to the sewage system, waste disposal, and building waste treatment plants.

## Ekeus due in Baghdad

(Continued from page 1)

Meanwhile, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali and Iraq's Deputy Foreign Minister Riad Al Qaisi discussed the missile sites dispute and the possible sale of a limited quantity of Iraqi oil at a private meeting Monday, diplomatic sources said (see page 2).

## Regent opens conference

(Continued from page 1)

Crown Prince said.

"We refuse, primarily and essentially, any attempt aimed at smearing the reputation of Islam, and the defaming of Muslims as the enemies of tomorrow and the neo-terrorist elements that threaten the new world order in the aftermath of the cold war," the Crown Prince said.

Although the theme of the conference is "Man and the Future of Civilisation" and working papers deal with such themes, the on-going strife between Muslims and non-Muslims in at least half a dozen countries in bound to dominate much of the conference discussions. The strife between Muslim Azerbaijan and Armenian Christians was cited one of the three speakers in the opening session.

The head of the Higher Council of Muslims in the Caucasus, Sheikh Shakour Bashzada, thanked Crown Prince Hassan and His Majesty King Hussein for trying to bring about a peaceful solution to the Azeri-Armenian conflict of the region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

"If the strife between Armenia and Azerbaijan is not dealt with properly, there could be grave consequences," Sheikh Bashzada warned.

Economic disparities, lack of political and social unity among Muslim countries as well as the continuing East-West divide, were all issues referred to by the three opening speakers. Crown Prince Hassan, head of the Al al Baith Foundation Dr. Nassereddin Al Assad and Sheikh Bashzada.

At the United Nations in New York, Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, in critical comments apparently directed at Italy, said it was unacceptable for any troop contingent in Somalia to take action outside the U.N. command.

The criticism through spokesman Joe Sills came in response to unconfirmed reports that Italian troops and other contingents were following orders from their capitals instead of the U.N.

"The secretary-general feels very strongly that in any U.N. operation the force commander must be in control of that operation in terms of working within the mandate as established by the Security Council," Mr. Sills said.

## American efforts 'encouraging'

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Rabin said he had found all sides serious about trying to bridge their differences.

"I think everybody is very serious about trying to find those ways (to bridge gaps) and at this point we're just going to continue in that effort," Mr. Ross said.

Elyakim Rubinstein, the top Israeli negotiator with the Palestinians, said Mr. Ross had conveyed a message from Mr. Rabin to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad about recent tension on the Israeli-Lebanese border.

"There are problems on the Lebanese border... Israel's concerns were made known, also to the Syrians," Mr. Rubinstein told

reporters after the Ross-Rabin meeting.

Mr. Rubinstein would not say what the message was, but Israeli media reported earlier this week that Mr. Rabin had asked Mr. Ross to deliver a stern warning to Syria.

Five Israeli soldiers died in clashes with Lebanese guerrillas over the weekend. Israel sees Syria as ultimately responsible for Lebanese guerrilla activity.

Arabs have united behind the Palestinian demand that the peace talks focus on the boundaries of Palestinian control during the five-year period of self-rule and that East Jerusalem must be included.